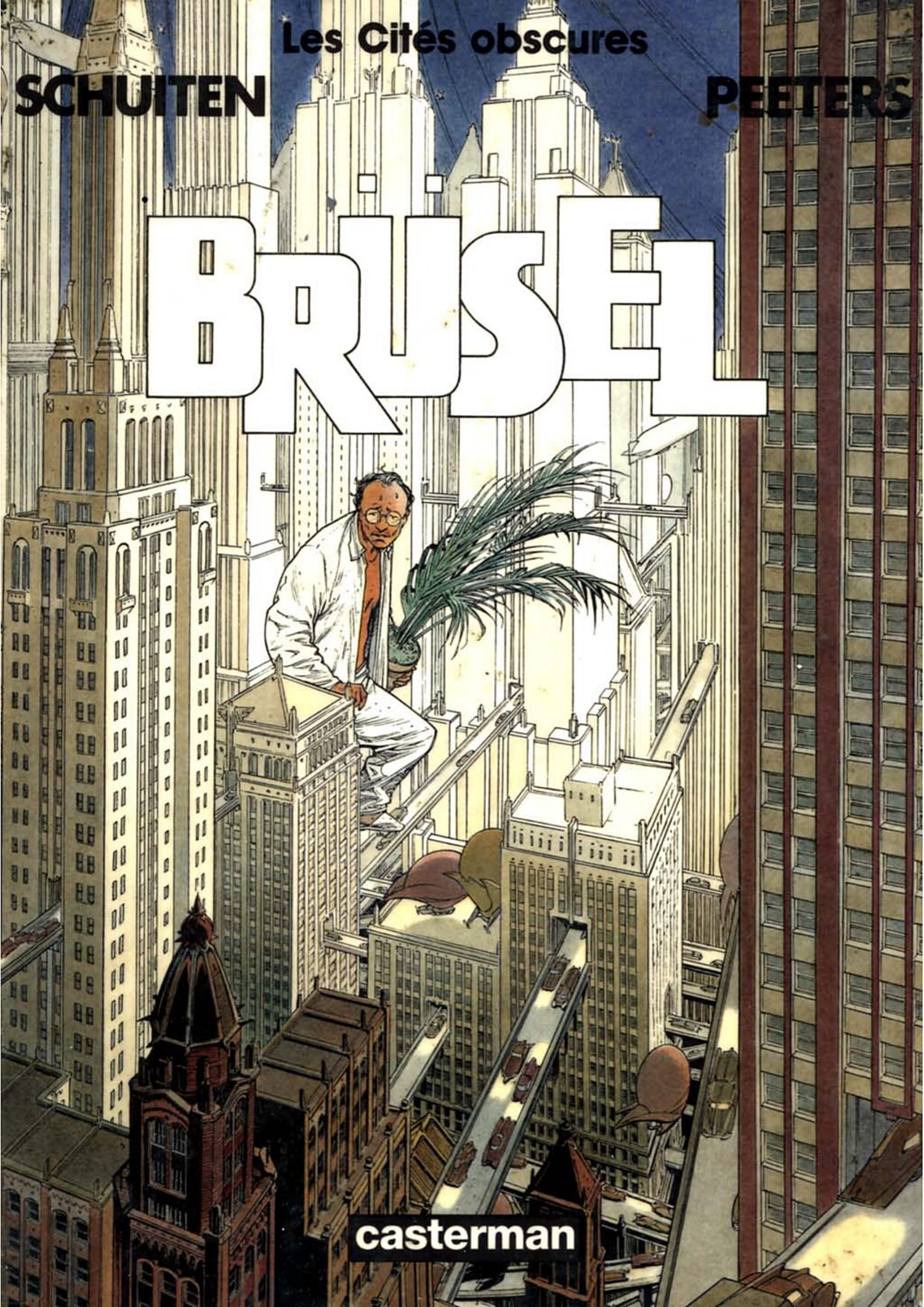




Les Cités obscures

SCHUITEN

PEETERS

BRUSSEL

casterman

Les Cités obscures

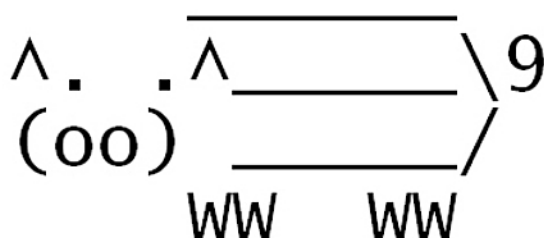
SCHUITEN

PEETERS

BRÛSEL

casterman

MAUS IS IN DA HAUS



A Wheelchair Warez production

Credits:

Scans of original French album: Presumably some random French guy

**Translation: Joe Johnson
(with some minor corrections/changes by yours truly)**

Lettering: Wheelchair Warez / Nicolai

1



Plastic is chic



THE SEA WE SEE DANCING ALONG THE CLEAR GULFS



HAS SILVER REFLECTIONS.
THE SEA... COUGH! COUGH!



...CHANGING REFLECTIONS
BENEATH THE R-A-I-N...

COUGH! COUGH!

PLASTIC IS BEAUTIFUL, PLASTIC IS PRACTICAL



THE SEA UNDER A SUMMER SKY
CONFUSES ITS WHITE FLOCKS
WITH THE ANGELS SO PURE



THE SEA, THE INFINITE
AZURE SHE-PHERDE-E-E-S-S

Le PLASTIQUE
c'est beau
Le PLASTIQUE
c'est pratique



LOOK NEAR THE PONDS
THESE GREAT DAMP REEDS
SEE THOSE WHITE BIRDS AND THOSE...

KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK

WE'RE
CLOSED!



KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK

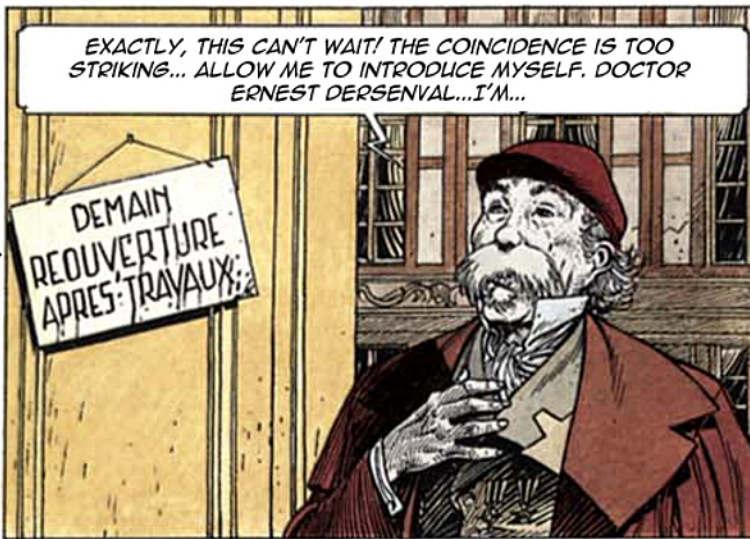
WE'RE CLOSED!



I CAN SEE FOR MYSELF THAT
YOU'RE CLOSED... OPEN THE
DOOR, FOR THE LOVE OF GOD...
OPEN THE DOOR!



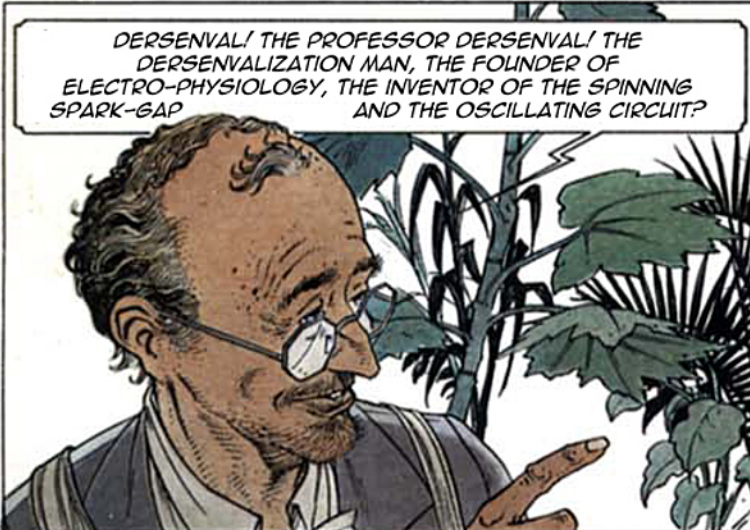
THE STORE WILL BE
OPEN AGAIN
TOMORROW... I'M
RENOVATING...



EXACTLY, THIS CAN'T WAIT! THE COINCIDENCE IS TOO
STRIKING... ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF. DOCTOR
ERNEST DERSENVAL... I'M...

DEMAIN
REOUVERTURE
APRES TRAVAUX

REOPENING TOMORROW AFTER RENOVATIONS



DERSENVAL! THE PROFESSOR DERSENVAL! THE
DERSENVALIZATION MAN, THE FOUNDER OF
ELECTRO-PHYSIOLOGY, THE INVENTOR OF THE SPINNING
SPARK-GAP AND THE OSCILLATING CIRCUIT?



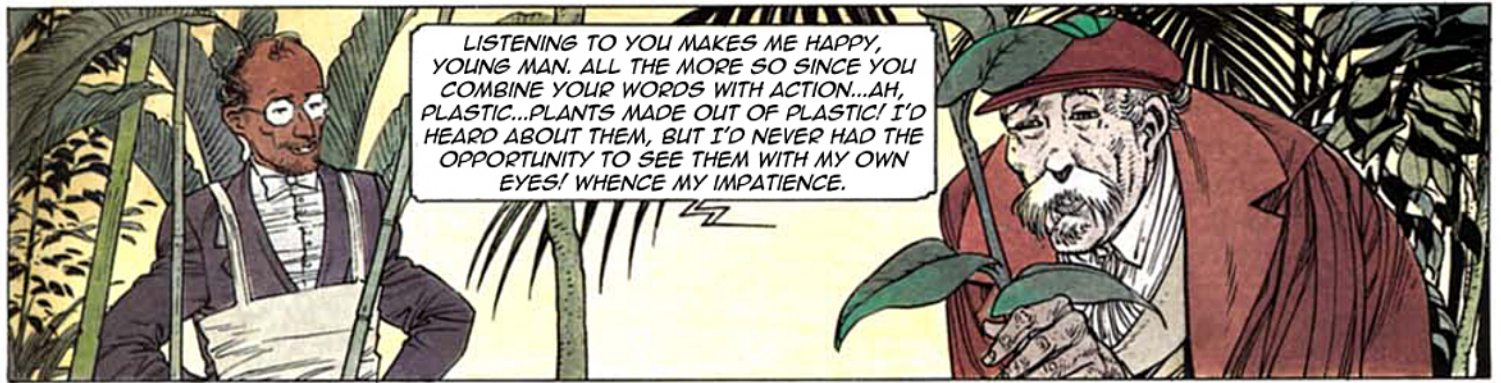
IN PERSON... BUT HOW IS
IT THAT...

THAT A FLORIST WOULD KNOW
ALL OF THIS! AH, DOCTOR, IT'S BECAUSE
I'VE A PASSION FOR SUCH THINGS, THOSE
AMAZING INVENTIONS WHICH ARE MAKING
US ADVANCE ON THE ROUTE OF
PROGRESS.



BELIEVE ME, I'VE GOT EVERY
SINGLE ISSUE OF THE SCIENCE
TOMORROW REVIEW! AND, IN FACT,
IN ONE OF THE LAST EDITIONS,
THERE'S AN ARTICLE ON...

COUGH
COUGH



LISTENING TO YOU MAKES ME HAPPY, YOUNG MAN. ALL THE MORE SO SINCE YOU COMBINE YOUR WORDS WITH ACTION...AH, PLASTIC...PLANTS MADE OUT OF PLASTIC! I'D HEARD ABOUT THEM, BUT I'D NEVER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THEM WITH MY OWN EYES! WHENCE MY IMPATIENCE.



IT'S REMARKABLE, REMARKABLE! A PRODIGIOUS INNOVATION WHICH WILL MAKE ALL THE VEGETATION OF THE PAST OLD-FASHIONED! PLASTIC AND ELECTRICITY, YOUNG MAN, ARE THE TWO MOTHERS OF PROGRESS;



WHAT A PLEASURE IT IS FOR ME TO SEE SOMEONE SO RESOLUTELY TURNED TOWARDS THE FUTURE! NO, DON'T PROTEST: PEOPLE OF YOUR STAMP ARE RARE, ESPECIALLY IN THIS COUNTRY...

EXCUSE ME, DOCTOR!



IT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT, IT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT... SO, WHERE WAS I. AH YES, PROGRESS... CERTAINLY YOU KNOW JUST HOW DISASTROUS THE STATE OF THE HEALTH CARE FACILITIES IS IN OUR CITY. I'VE BEEN REFLECTING ON THIS QUESTION FOR YEARS.

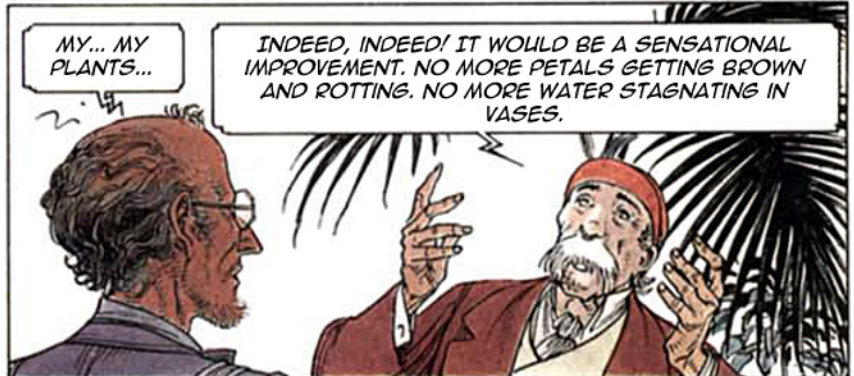


EVERYTHING HAS BEEN UP HERE FOR A LONG TIME, DOWN TO THE SLIGHTEST DETAILS... BUT NOW, THE SKETCHES ARE READY. IF YOU'D LIKE TO SEE THEM, I'LL SHOW THEM TO YOU.

I WOULDN'T WANT TO TROUBLE Y...



NOT AT ALL, NOT AT ALL! LOOK: A HUGE FACILITY, BENEFITING FROM THE MOST MODERN EQUIPMENT, FROM THE MOST AUDACIOUS CONCEPTIONS, FROM THE MOST CUTTING-EDGE TECHNIQUES... A VERITABLE SKYSCRAPER OF SUFFERING! AND ON EVERY FLOOR, YOUR PLANTS!



MY... MY PLANTS...

INDEED, INDEED! IT WOULD BE A SENSATIONAL IMPROVEMENT. NO MORE PETALS GETTING BROWN AND ROTTING. NO MORE WATER STAGNATING IN VASES.



THEU!
THEU!

YOU'RE COUGHING, YOUNG MAN! AH, IT'S HIGH TIME THAT MIASMAS DISAPPEAR FROM THIS NEIGHBORHOOD... BE ASSURED, THE DAYS OF THIS OPEN-AIR SEWER ARE NOW NUMBERED.



SO ALL OF THESE RUMORS ARE WELL-FOUNDED. PREPARATIONS REALLY ARE BEING MADE.



ABSOLUTELY! WE'RE AT THE DAWN OF A VERITABLE REVOLUTION WHICH WILL MAKE BRÜSEL A CAPITAL WORTHY OF THE TITLE. WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT IT FOR A LONG TIME IN CHAMBERS. BUT YOU ARE ACQUAINTED WITH THE DEAD WEIGHT OF HABIT... LUCKILY AN EMINENT MAN, MR. DE VROUW...



MR. CONSTANT,
MR. CONSTANT!

LIHH... MY TENANT, MRS. VANDERSTICHELEN. PROFESSOR...



DON'T TAKE ON AIRS, MR. CONSTANT! YOU CAN CERTAINLY CALL ME MARIE-JEANNE WITH THE GENTLEMAN! SO WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO WITH YOUR PLASTIC? THERE'S NO MORE WATER.



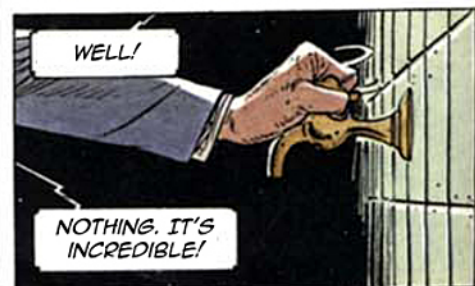
WHAT DO YOU MEAN NO MORE WATER? I JUST DRANK SOME AN HOUR AGO.

OH WELL, JUST TRY FOR YOURSELF IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME!



WELL!

NOTHING. IT'S INCREDIBLE!



YOU SEE, IT REALLY IS TIME FOR THINGS TO CHANGE. BUT YOU'RE LUCKY, YOUR HOUSE IS SITUATED IN A STRATEGIC LOCATION.



STRATEGIC, STRATEGIC. IN THE MEANWHILE, THAT'S NOT WHAT'S GOING TO TURN OUR WATER BACK ON. AND ME WITH ALL THOSE PLANTS I'VE TAKEN IN. BELIEVE YOU ME, I NEED WATER.

WHAT PLANTS?



WELL, ALL THOSE YOU DISCARDED IN THE GUTTER AS TRASH. SURELY YOU DIDN'T THINK I'D LEAVE THEM TO DIE LIKE THAT... SO I BROUGHT THEM ALL UPSTAIRS. THEY'RE UP THERE.



IF YOU WOULD TAKE A WORD OF ADVICE FROM ME, MADAM, RID YOURSELF OF THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! ALL THIS FILTH CAN ONLY DO YOU HARM... LOOK AT THIS POOR MAN, WHY EVER DO YOU THINK HE'S COUGHING! TOO MUCH HUMIDITY, THAT'S WHAT, TOO MUCH HUMIDITY IS UNHEALTHY!



DEAR FRIEND, I TAKE MY LEAVE OF YOU, YOU CAN'T KNOW THE PLEASURE I'VE HAD MEETING YOU. AND MOREOVER, WE WILL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.

THANK YOU, PROFESSOR...



HERE'S MY CARD. COME BY TO SEE ME ONE DAY SOON!



MY INFINITE THANKS, PROFESSOR... BY THE WAY, ABOUT MY COUGH, DO YOU THINK I SHOULD...

YOUR COUGH, WHY IT'S NOTHING, NOTHING AT ALL! AHH! IT WILL GO AWAY WITH THE SENNE...



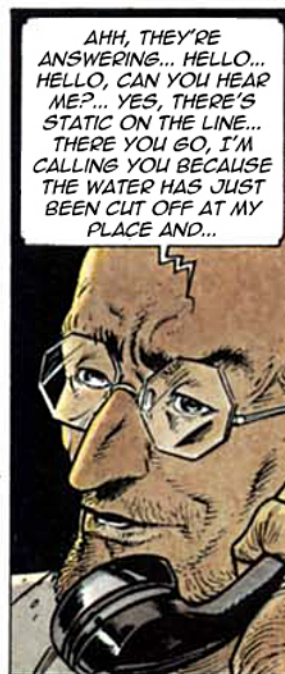


DON'T WORRY, MARIE-JEANNE. I'M GOING TO TAKE CARE OF THIS PROBLEM WITH THE WATER IN A SNAP. IT'S JUST A MATTER OF FINDING THE RIGHT PERSON AND THE WATER WILL BE BACK ON WITHIN THE HOUR. LET'S GO INTO THE OFFICE. IT'LL JUST TAKE A FEW MINUTES.



ALL RIGHT, WHAT ARE THEY WAITING FOR TO PICK UP?

IT'S TEN MINUTES AFTER ELEVEN, THEY'VE NO DOUBT ALREADY LEFT FOR LUNCH...



AHH, THEY'RE ANSWERING... HELLO... HELLO, CAN YOU HEAR ME?... YES, THERE'S STATIC ON THE LINE... THERE YOU GO, I'M CALLING YOU BECAUSE THE WATER HAS JUST BEEN CUT OFF AT MY PLACE AND...



WHAT? MY ACCOUNT NUMBER?... SO MUCH STATIC!... WAIT A SECOND, I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU...



LAND REGISTER... CONTRIBUTIONS... TELEPHONE... AH, HERE, THIS MUST BE IT!



HELLO? HELLO...? IT CAN'T BE TRUE, THEY'VE ALREADY HUNG UP.



NOW THERE'S NO DIAL TONE!



WHAT AN EVENING, THIS KIND OF THING SHOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE!



GOOD GOD!

YOUR GRANDFATHER, WHAT BAD LUCK! AH, MR. CONSTANT, I'D TOLD YOU THAT NONE OF THIS WOULD BRING US ANY LUCK...

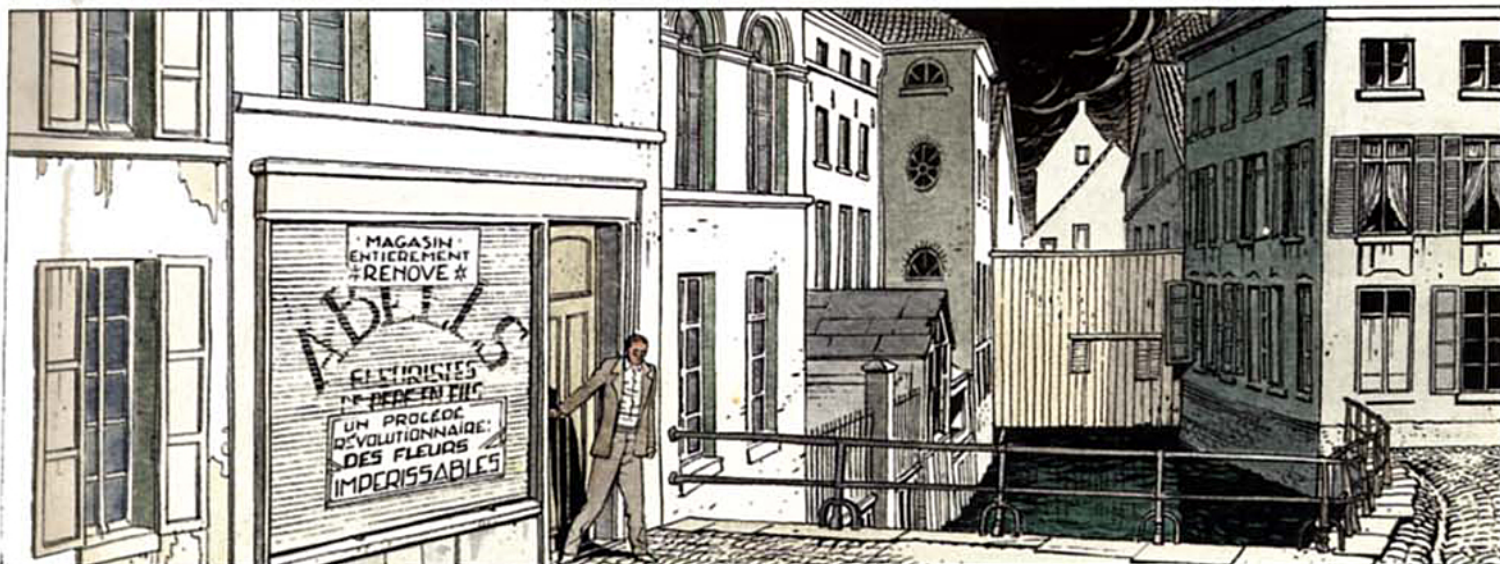


OH DARN IT!

NO POINT IN GETTING MAD, LITTLE THINGS LIKE THIS CAN HAPPEN... WELL, THE BEST THING IS TO GO SEE ABOUT IT AT THE PALACE. I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE MATTER OF THE TELEPHONE AT THE SAME TIME AS THE WATER.



IT'S ABOUT TIME, MR. CONSTANT!



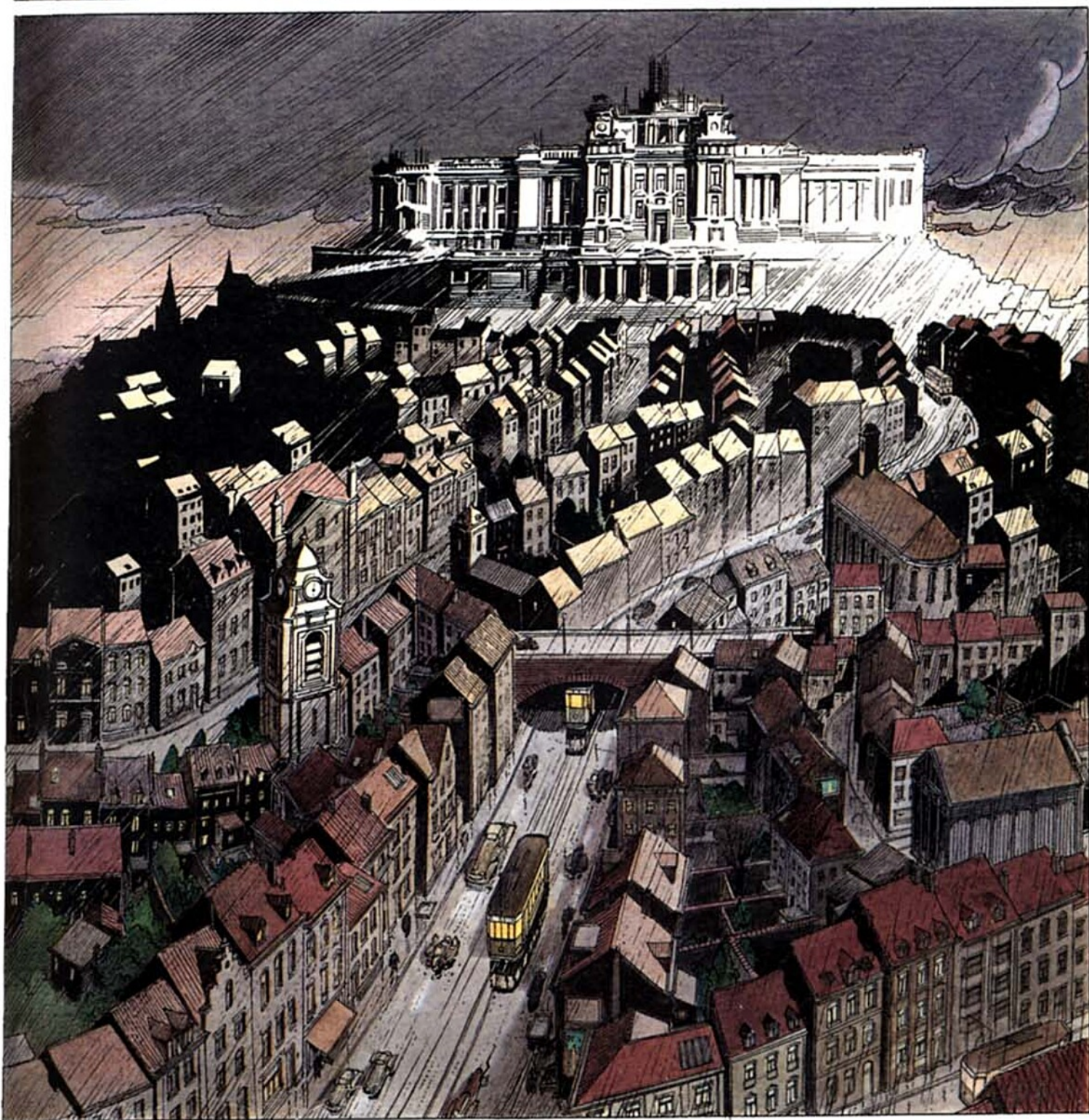
↑ STORE ENTIEREMENT RENOVE - ADEEL'S FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS - FAMILY BUSINESS - A REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS - IMMORTAL FLOWERS

AND NOW IT'S GOING TO START RAINING. THAT'S JUST MY LUCK...



THERE YOU HAVE THE NATIONAL MONSOON! WONDER HOW AM I GOING TO SOUND SAYING THAT MY WATER'S BEEN CUT OFF...





AND SO HE SAYS TO ME JUST LIKE THAT:
"MOM, AT MY AGE I CERTAINLY HAVE THE
RIGHT TO DATE WHOMEVER I WISH..."



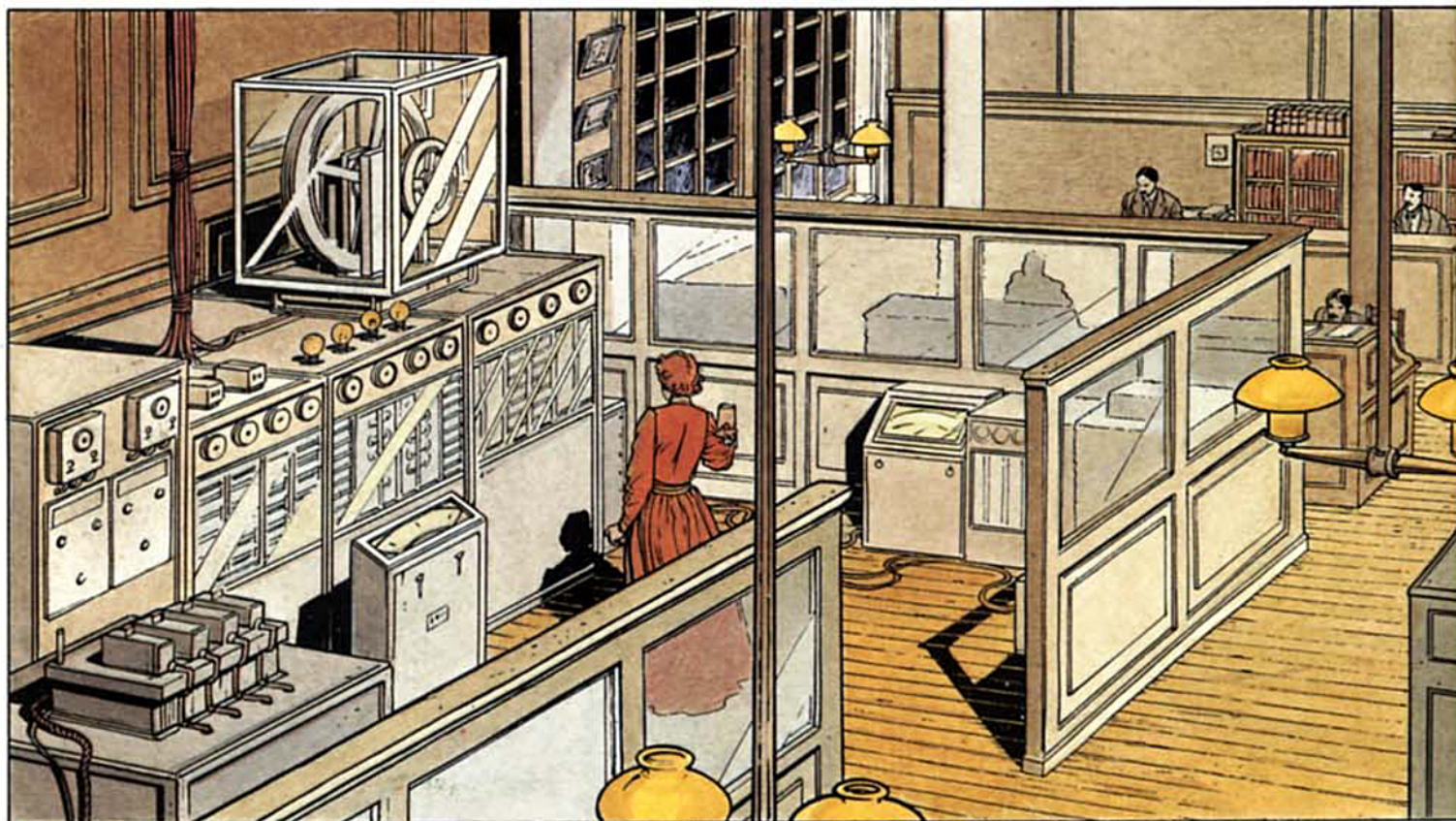
BUT, YOU KNOW, I ANSWERED HIM JUST AS
PLAINLY: "I'M THE ONE WEARING THE SKIRT HERE
AND AS LONG AS YOU'RE LIVING HERE, YOU'LL..."

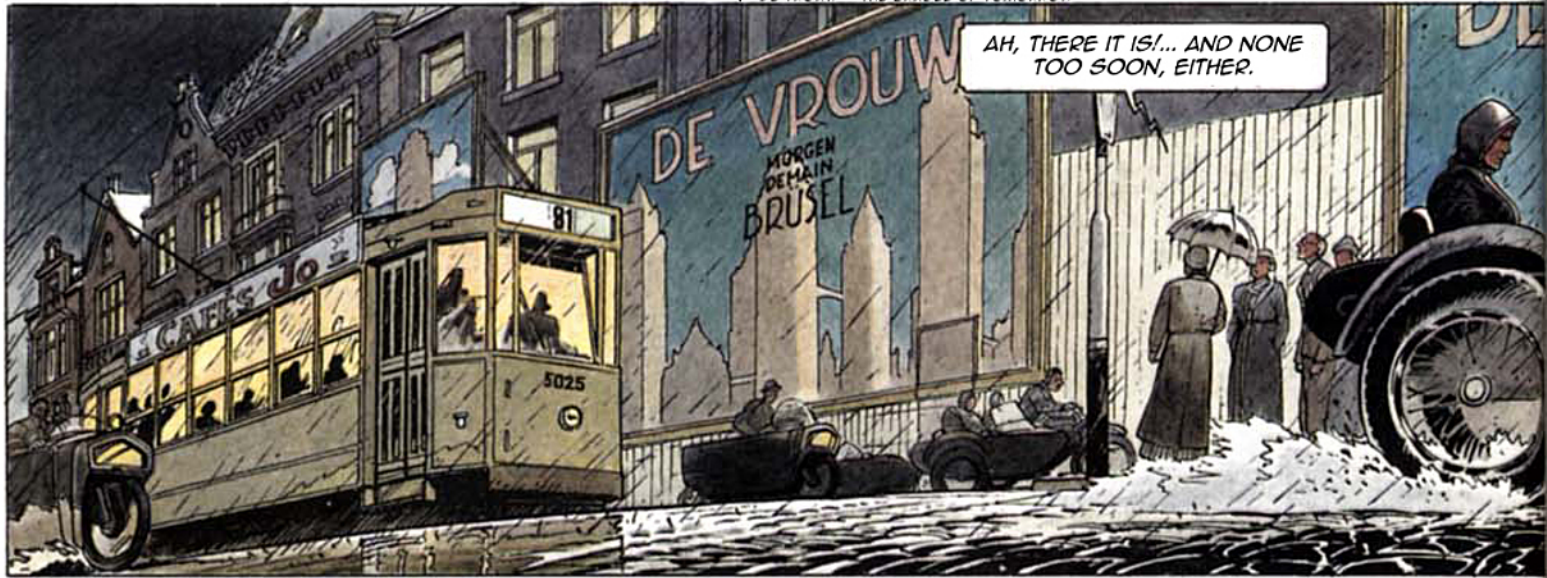


BREAK TIME!

AH, I WAS STARTING TO
WONDER...

I'LL GO FOR THE
COFFEE.





AH, THERE IT IS!... AND NONE TOO SOON, EITHER.



DON'T PUSH!

WELL, EXCUSE ME, MADAM.



ONE TICKET PLEASE!

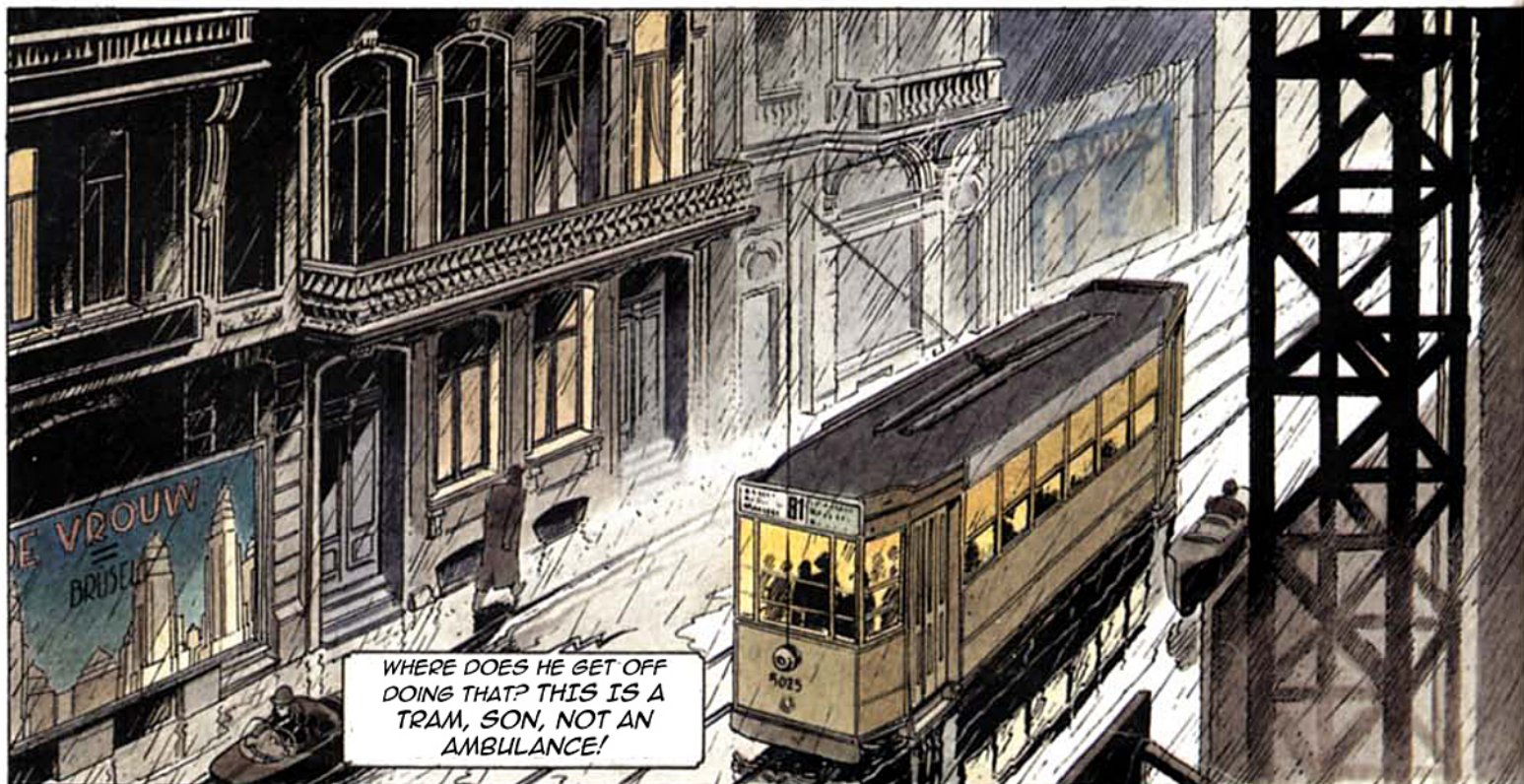
MOVE ON, MOVE ON!

MOVE ON, MOVE ON... THAT'S A GOOD ONE!



OOPS!

HEY, TAKE IT EASY!



WHERE DOES HE GET OFF DOING THAT? THIS IS A TRAM, SON, NOT AN AMBULANCE!



LISTEN, IT'LL SOON BE THREE HOURS THAT I'VE BEEN SENT FROM ONE OFFICE TO ANOTHER. I FINALLY LAND ON THE RIGHT DEPARTMENT. SO, PLEASE, BREAK OR NO BREAK, WOULD SOMEONE TAKE CARE OF MY ACCOUNT?



AH, OUR CIVIL SERVANTS ARE REALLY GREAT! IT'S NOT SURPRISING THAT OUR COUNTRY'S WHERE IT IS! COUGH! COUGH! LITTLE PEOPLE, LITTLE MEANS, LITTLE MINDS! THE ONLY BIG THING HERE IS THE PALACE



WELL, ALL THE SAME, BUT REALIZE THIS! I'M COMPLETELY RENOVATING MY STORE. I'M TRANSFORMING IT IN A REVOLUTIONARY MANNER. I'M TELLING EVERYBODY THAT I'M RE-OPENING TOMORROW AND BECAUSE OF YOUR INERTIA, YES, I'M WEIGHING MY WORDS, BECAUSE OF YOUR INERTIA, ALL THAT HAS JUST BEEN CAST IN DOUBT.



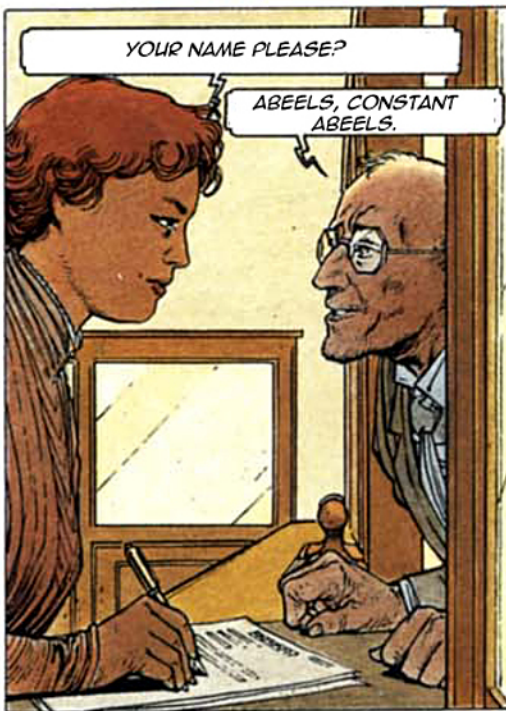
HEY YOU OVER THERE, ARE YOU GOING TO BE DONE WITH YOUR SPIEL ANYTIME SOON?

LET IT GO, ROGER, I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.



YOUR NAME PLEASE?

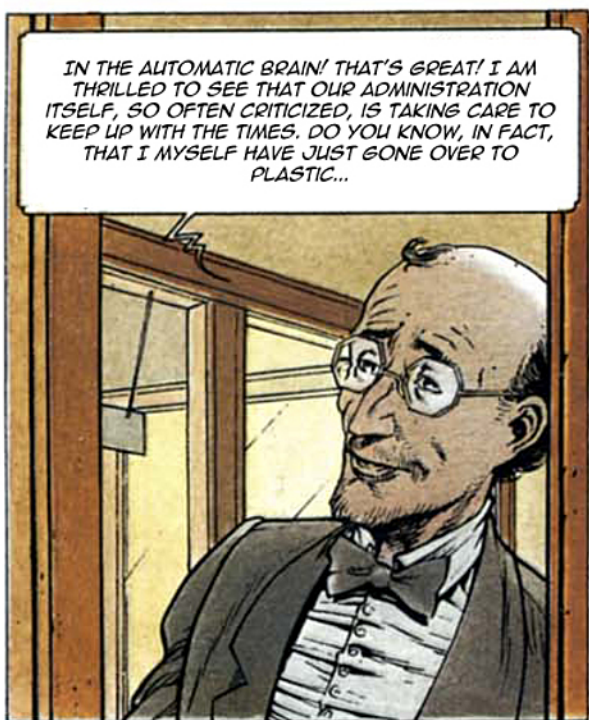
ABEELS, CONSTANT ABEELS.



ABEELS! SIR, YOU ARE IN LUCK. ALL OF OUR ACCOUNTS ARE IN THE PROCESS OF BEING TRANSFERRED TO THE NEW MACHINE, THE AUTOMATIC BRAIN, THERE, ALL THE WAY IN THE BACK... AND THE 'A'S WERE JUST FINISHED. EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU IS FOUND IN THERE!



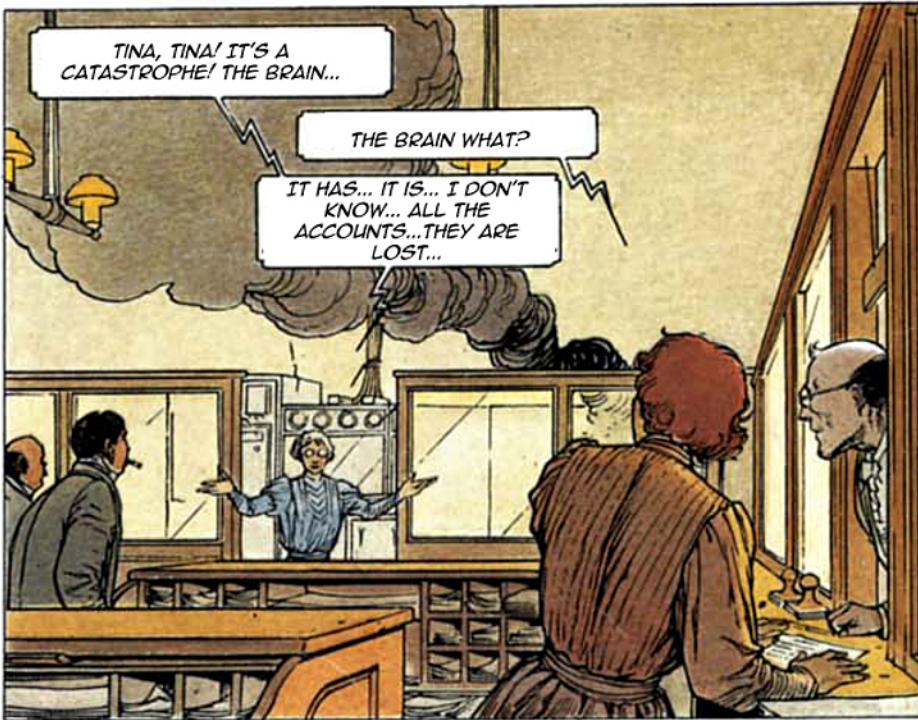
IN THE AUTOMATIC BRAIN! THAT'S GREAT! I AM THRILLED TO SEE THAT OUR ADMINISTRATION ITSELF, SO OFTEN CRITICIZED, IS TAKING CARE TO KEEP UP WITH THE TIMES. DO YOU KNOW, IN FACT, THAT I MYSELF HAVE JUST GONE OVER TO PLASTIC...



TINA, TINA! IT'S A CATASTROPHE! THE BRAIN...

THE BRAIN WHAT?

IT HAS... IT IS... I DON'T KNOW... ALL THE ACCOUNTS... THEY ARE LOST...







I SENSE THAT WE'RE ON THE RIGHT PATH.

YOU... YOU'RE SURE?



HAVE FAITH IN ME, I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.



OH!



MISS...



MISS! COUGH, COUGH, COUGH.

GONE,
SWALLOWED,
CRUSHED...



GOOD GOD! POOR WOMAN... IF ONLY...

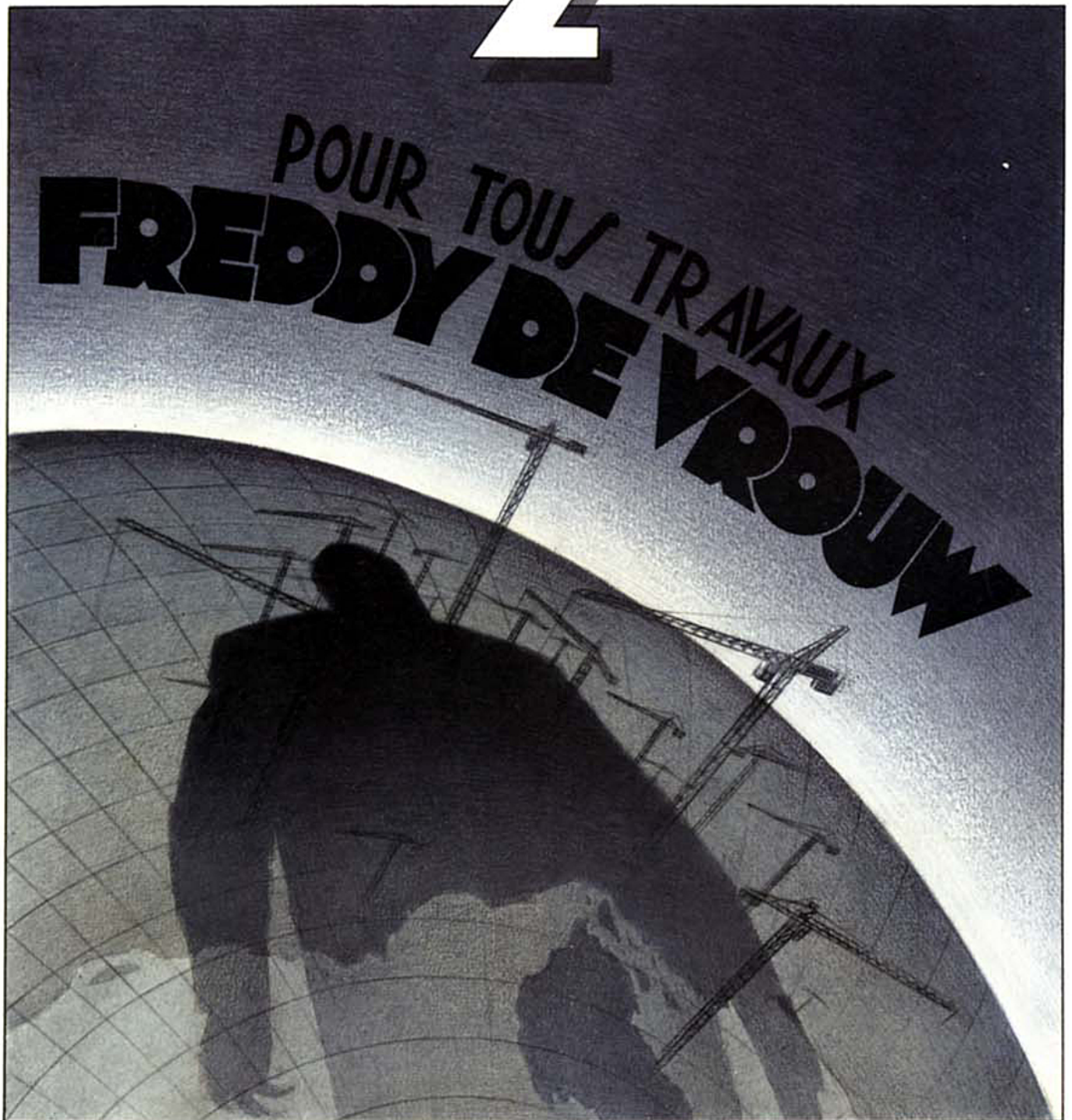


ATCHOO



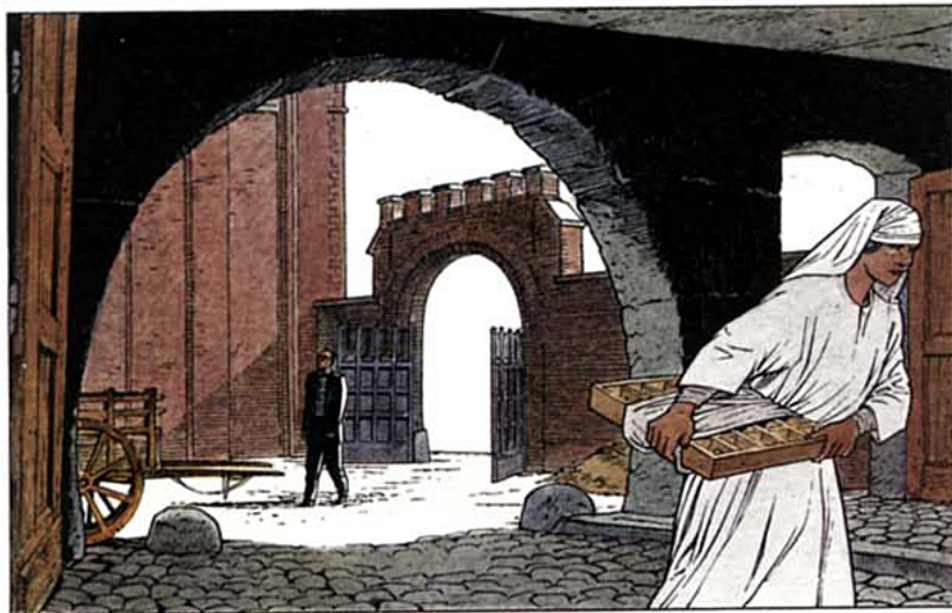
**For all work
Freddy de Vrouw**

2





← YESTERDAY, IT WAS STILL A DREAM

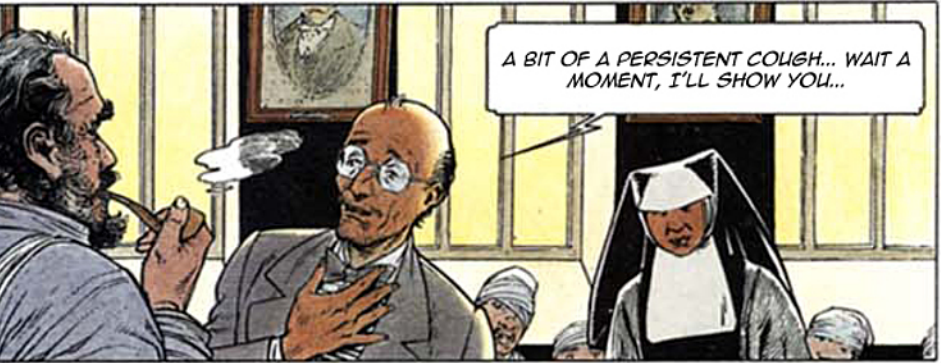




EXCUSE ME FOR BOTHERING YOU, DOCTOR, BUT COULD I FIND OUT WHEN IT'LL BE MY TURN? I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR TWO HOURS AND...



WHO TOLD YOU TO WAIT HERE? AND FIRST, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?



A BIT OF A PERSISTENT COUGH... WAIT A MOMENT, I'LL SHOW YOU...



COUGH!

COUGH!

THEU!



THEU!
THEU!
THEU!



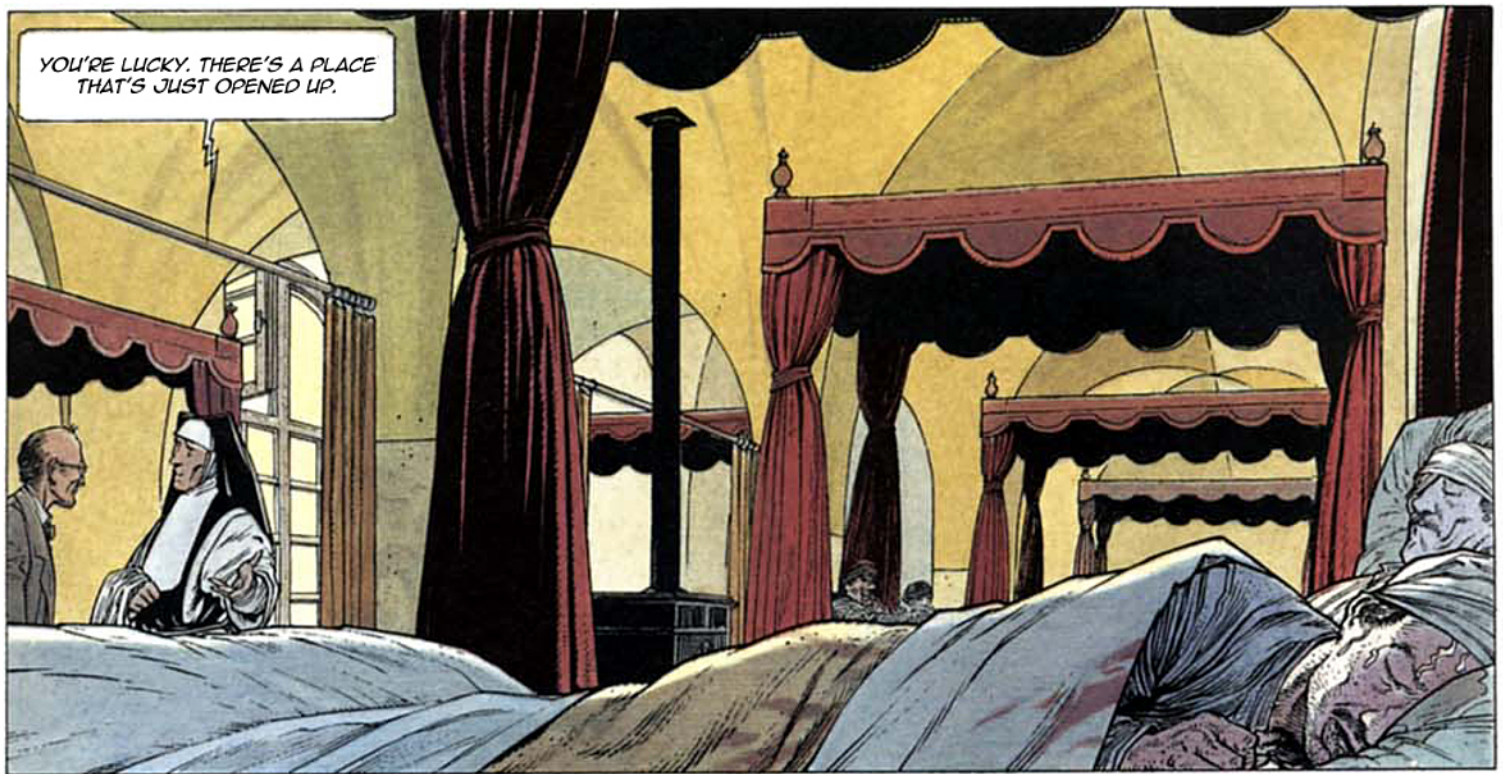
IMMEDIATE HOSPITALIZATION! WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT TOMORROW.

OH WOW!

THAT'S A SERIOUS ONE!

AARGH!

THERE'S ONE WHO'S NOT READY TO LEAVE.



YOU'RE LUCKY. THERE'S A PLACE THAT'S JUST OPENED UP.



THERE YOU GO, MY SON. NOW UNDRESS AND GET IN THE BED!



LISTEN, PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BETTER IF I COME BACK TOMORROW... WHEN ARE THE DOCTORS' CONSULTATION HOURS?



DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT! THE HEAD DOCTOR WOULD NEVER SIGN THE RELEASE AUTHORIZATION. MOREOVER, EVERYONE IS OVERWHELMED HERE. ONE NEVER KNOWS WHEN THE EXAMINATIONS ARE GOING TO TAKE PLACE.

REALLY!

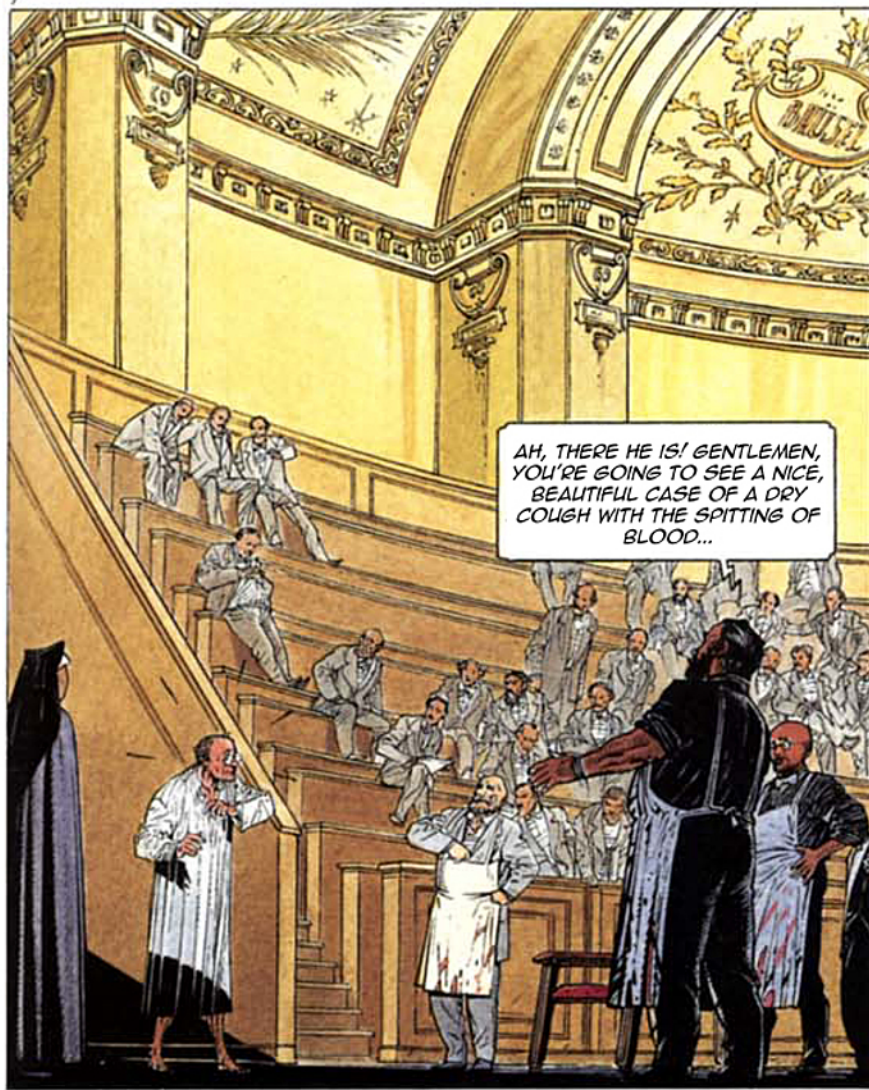


UHH... EXCUSE ME!...



DON'T WORRY, GENTLEMEN, I WON'T BOTHER YOU FOR LONG. I'M ONLY HERE FOR THE NIGHT.

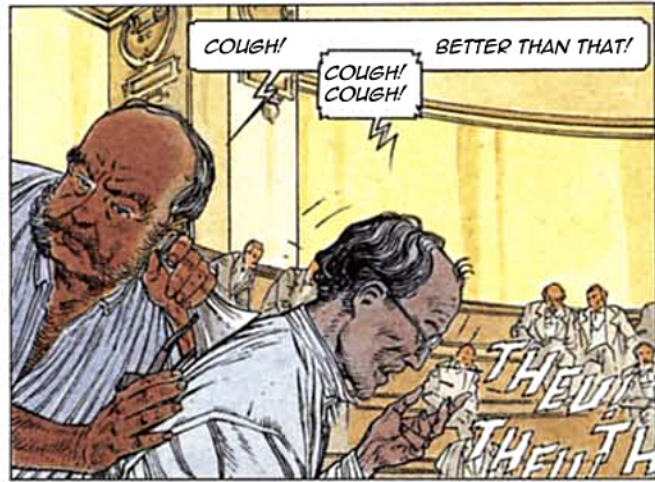




AH, THERE HE IS! GENTLEMEN, YOU'RE GOING TO SEE A NICE, BEAUTIFUL CASE OF A DRY COUGH WITH THE SPITTING OF BLOOD...



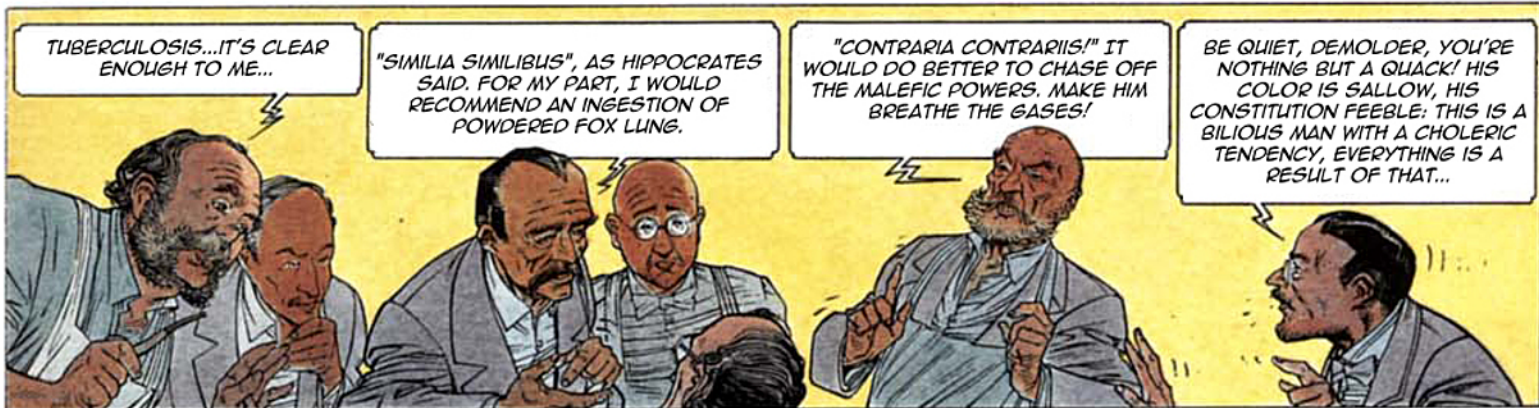
DON'T BE AFRAID, MY FRIEND, SIT THERE!



COUGH!

BETTER THAN THAT!

COUGH!
COUGH!



TUBERCULOSIS...IT'S CLEAR ENOUGH TO ME...

"SIMILIA SIMILIBUS", AS HIPPOCRATES SAID. FOR MY PART, I WOULD RECOMMEND AN INGESTION OF POWDERED FOX LUNG.

"CONTRARIA CONTRARIIS!" IT WOULD DO BETTER TO CHASE OFF THE MALEFIC POWERS. MAKE HIM BREATHE THE GASES!

BE QUIET, DEMOLDER, YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A QUACK! HIS COLOR IS SALLOW, HIS CONSTITUTION FEEBLE: THIS IS A BILIOUS MAN WITH A CHOLERIC TENDENCY, EVERYTHING IS A RESULT OF THAT...



NOT AT ALL, THIS IS THE PROTOTYPE OF THE ATRABILIARIAN

ABSURD, PERFECTLY ABSURD!

LET'S NOT FORGET THE MYSTERIOUS AGENTS... THEIR ROLE IS ESSENTIAL IN THESE KIND OF AILMENTS.



YOU DO AS USUAL, SISTER: DIET, LEECHES AND SYRUP OF SLUG... BRING HIM BACK TO US IN A FORTNIGHT!



BUT... MY STORE...MY PLANTS...

LET'S GO, COME ON NOW, NO PROBLEMS!



SO, MARIE-JEANNE, STILL NO WORD ON OUR POOR MR. CONSTANT?



NOTHING AT ALL... IT'S BEEN MORE THAN A WEEK SINCE HE LEFT TO HAVE THE WATER TURNED BACK ON.



YOU ARE GOING TO NEED HIM TO TAKE CARE OF ALL THIS MESS, THOUGH!

BUT WHATEVER WILL HE DO?



THIS TIME THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'RE REALLY STUCK ON THERE...



GOOD LORD, THEY'RE HOLDING ON SO WELL THAT I'M GOING TO HAVE TO USE THE SCISSORS.



HURRY, SISTER MARY-THERESA, OUR VISITORS ARE ARRIVING!



ANOTHER VISIT! WHAT'S WRONG WITH THEM NOW?

CALM DOWN, PLEASE!



I HAVE ONLY ONE THING TO SAY, GENTLEMEN, NEVER AGAIN!



THE CLINICS MUST CEASE BEING THE DUMPING GROUNDS FOR ALL EVILS AND BECOME TEMPLES OF HEALING.

THE BUILDING ITSELF IS ROTTEN. TEARING IT DOWN IS URGENT.



MR. DE VROUW IS ENTIRELY CORRECT...JUST LOOK AT THAT, NOT A SINGLE MODERN APPARATUS, NOT THE LEAST AWARENESS OF SEPARATING THE KINDS OF ILLNESSES...



THE CONTAGIOUS AND THE NON-CONTAGIOUS, THE SUFFERING AND THE CONVALESCENTS, THE FEVERISH AND THE WOUNDED SLEEP SIDE BY SIDE HERE...

BUT... IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN...



THIS IS LIKE THE MIDDLE AGES, GENTLEMEN, I'M WEIGHING MY WORDS...

PROFESSOR... PROFESSOR!

SOMEONE'S CALLING FOR YOU, I THINK.



WHAT MY FRIEND, YOU HERE? BUT WHAT THE DEVIL ARE YOU DOING IN THIS MONUMENT OF BACKWARDNESS?



GENTLEMEN, ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE TO YOU ONE OF THE HOPES OF OUR NATION, ONE OF THE FUTURE SUPPLIERS OF OUR CLINIC. A MAN WHO BELIEVES IN PLASTIC, MR...HMM...MR...

ABEELS... CONSTANT ABEELS...



JUST SO. AND GENTLEMEN, IT'S THIS MAN WE SUBMIT HERE TO THE MOST BARBAROUS TREATMENTS, WHOM WE EXPOSE TO THE MOST DRAMATIC RISKS OF CONTAGION BY ABANDONING HIM AMIDST THESE SCURVY, SCROFULOUS, WORM-INFESTED ONES...DEAR FRIEND, YOU ARE THE LIVING EXAMPLE OF WHAT MUST BE AVOIDED.

COUGH





HERE, ALONG WITH THE FOSSILS ALAS,
ARE THE MOST DYNAMIC PERSONALITIES
OF OUR CITY.



MY DEAR MR. DE VROUW, WHAT A PLEASURE IT IS TO
FINALLY SEE THE IDEAS FOR WHICH WE HAVE BEEN
FIGHTING FOR SO LONG FINALLY PREVAIL...

IN ALL, PROFESSOR, WE ARE KIND OF DOING THE
SAME WORK. AM I NOT THE DOCTORING THE CITY?

PERRY'S
FANCY
GOODS

39
MOUNTAIN
OF THE
C---

ASK FOR
OUR M---



I DRESS THE WOUNDS, I REMOVE THE
ABSCESSSES AND TUMORS, I REPLACE THE
WEAK ORGANS WITH PROSTHESES...

MR. DE VROUW, THIS
COMPARISON HONORS THE
ENTIRE MEDICAL CORPS.

COUGH!
COUGH!



AND POELAERT? STILL
NOT TO BE FOUND?

IN PÄHRY, MOST LIKELY, WITH
ONE OF THOSE DANCING
GIRLS...



FRANKLY, WHAT AN IDEA TO HAVE CONFIDED THE CONSTRUCTION OF SUCH A PALACE TO A MAN WHO HAD ONLY BUILT A COLUMN AND A HALF-CHURCH, THUS PROVING HIS COMPLETE IGNORANCE OF THE SCIENCE OF CONSTRUCTIONS.



...YOUR PERNICIOUS DOINGS ARE OVER, MADAM! THE ADMINISTRATION HAS SEEN THROUGH YOUR GAME.



YOU ARE A SABOTEUR, A TERRORIST...DON'T EVER THINK ABOUT TAKING ANOTHER STEP IN HERE!

TINA...



CONSTANT! YOU'RE ASSOCIATING WITH THE BIGWIGS NOW?

YOU KNOW THIS WOMAN, SIR...I WOULDN'T BE VERY PROUD OF IT IF I WERE YOU...

COUGH! COUGH!



BECAUSE, YOU KNOW, IN ADDITION TO HER OTHER MISDEEDS, SHE PERMITS HERSELF TO COME TO WORK WITHOUT THE LEAST UNDERGARMENT!

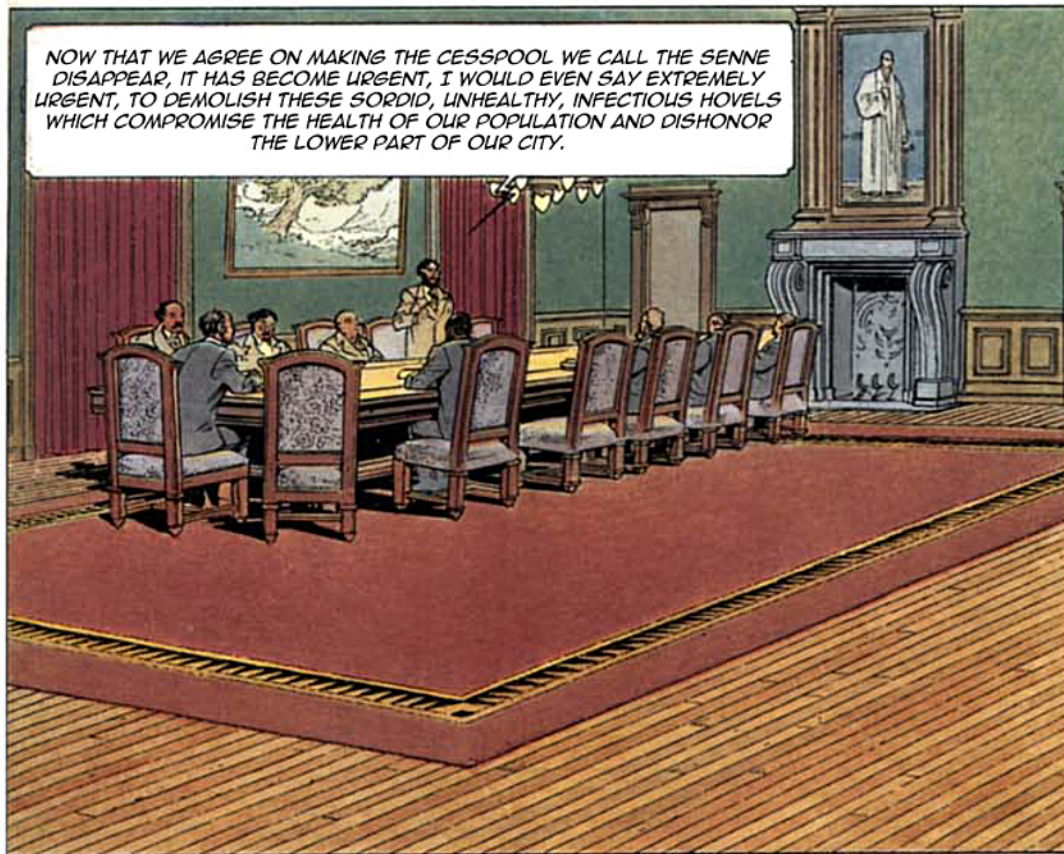
OH YES, MY FRIEND, I'M NOT WEARING THE LEAST BIT OF A SLIP! THANK GOD, THAT SCARCELY CONCERNS YOU...



COME, DEAR FRIEND, THESE GENTLEMEN AWAIT US...

WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER SOON, CONSTANT...TILL THEN!

NO SLIP...TSK...

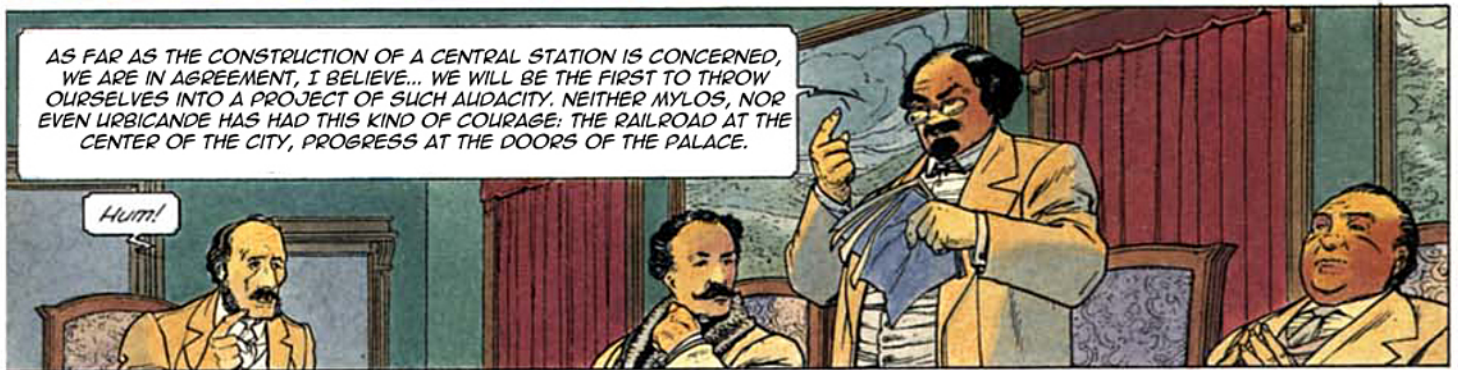


NOW THAT WE AGREE ON MAKING THE CESSPOOL WE CALL THE SENNE DISAPPEAR, IT HAS BECOME URGENT, I WOULD EVEN SAY EXTREMELY URGENT, TO DEMOLISH THESE SORDID, UNHEALTHY, INFECTIOUS HOVELS WHICH COMPROMISE THE HEALTH OF OUR POPULATION AND DISHONOR THE LOWER PART OF OUR CITY.



BRÛSEL OWES IT TO ITSELF TO RESEMBLE A CAPITAL WORTHY OF THAT NAME AND TO ABANDON ITS LOOK OF A BIG, OLD-FASHIONED VILLAGE.

IT'S ALDERMAN DE WOLF'S TURN TO SPEAK!



AS FAR AS THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CENTRAL STATION IS CONCERNED, WE ARE IN AGREEMENT, I BELIEVE... WE WILL BE THE FIRST TO THROW OURSELVES INTO A PROJECT OF SUCH AUDACITY. NEITHER MYLOS, NOR EVEN URBICANDE HAS HAD THIS KIND OF COURAGE: THE RAILROAD AT THE CENTER OF THE CITY, PROGRESS AT THE DOORS OF THE PALACE.

Hmm!



ALL THE SAME, LET'S TAKE CARE TO NOT DEMOLISH IMPRUDENTLY! WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO, FOR EXAMPLE, TO THE SUPERB SAINT JUSTINE SQUARE?

LET'S BE CLEAR, MR. SLEECKX, YOU WILL NEVER EXECUTE ANY USEFUL PUBLIC WORK WITHOUT BUDGING A COMMA!

AND MOREOVER, DON'T BE AFRAID OF ANYTHING, WE'LL PHOTOGRAPH ALL THIS OLD STUFF BEFORE DESTROYING IT.

COUGH!



LET'S PUT A HOLD ON THE DISCUSSION, GENTLEMEN. I'M ANXIOUS TO INFORM YOU THAT MR. DE VROUW HAS SAVED A SURPRISE FOR YOU...

OH!



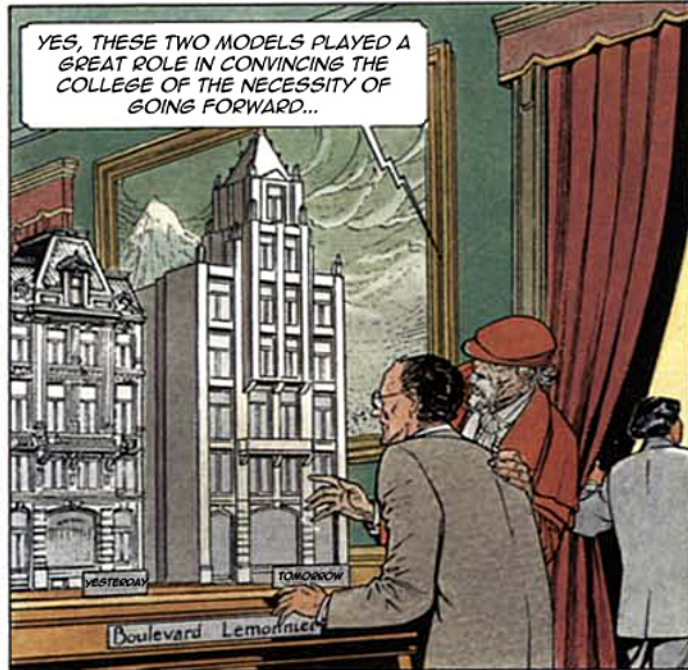
THIS WAY PLEASE!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIP THE OTHER DAY.

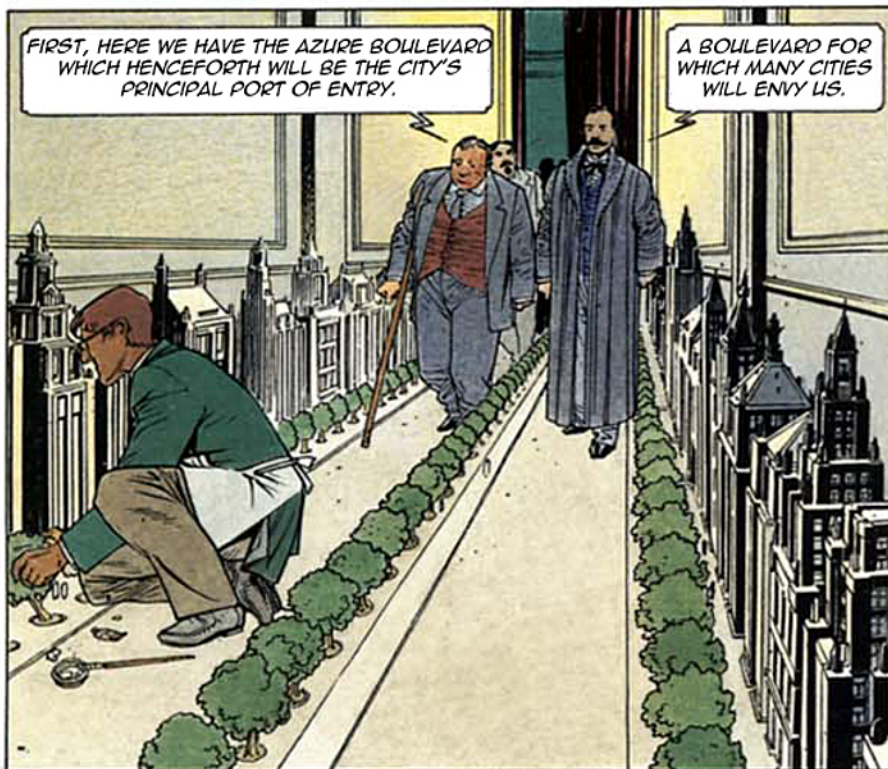
YOU'LL SEE, IT'S GOING TO GO UP.



TRUST ME, I'LL PAY YOU BACK.



YES, THESE TWO MODELS PLAYED A GREAT ROLE IN CONVINCING THE COLLEGE OF THE NECESSITY OF GOING FORWARD...



FIRST, HERE WE HAVE THE AZURE BOULEVARD WHICH HENCEFORTH WILL BE THE CITY'S PRINCIPAL PORT OF ENTRY.

A BOULEVARD FOR WHICH MANY CITIES WILL ENVY US.



HONORABLE CITY MANAGER, ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE TO YOU GEORGES LETERRIER WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF THE CONSTRUCTION.

I WOULD LIKE...

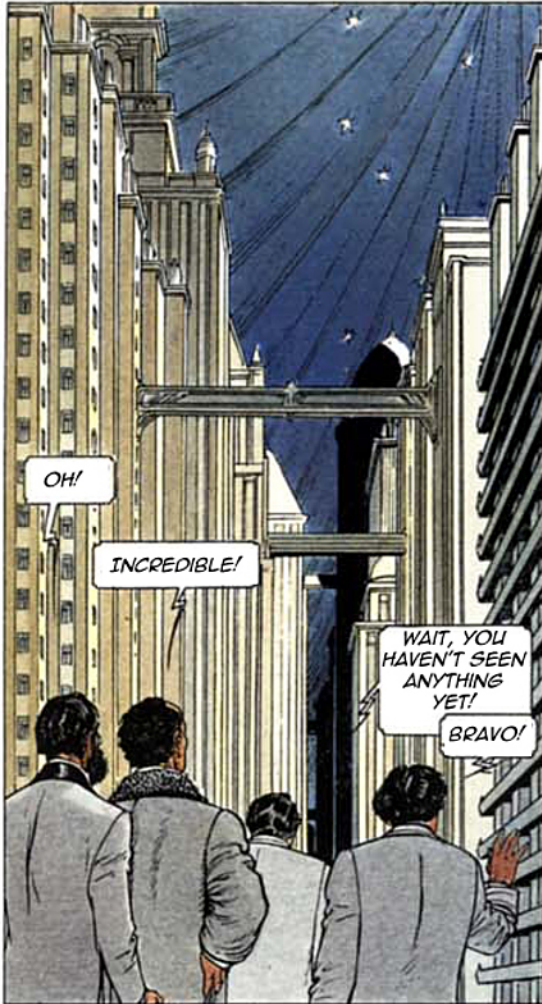
BRAVO, MY FRIEND, IT'S VERY GOOD, VERY GOOD.



YOU'RE GOING TO SEE, THIS YOUNG MAN HASN'T DONE THINGS HALFWAY...

NOT INSOFAR AS THE PRICE IS CONCERNED EITHER.

I SIMPLY WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT TO YOU THE FRAGILITY OF THIS MOCK-UP.



OH!

INCREDIBLE!

WAIT, YOU
HAVEN'T SEEN
ANYTHING
YET!

BRAVO!



HOW LUCKY WE ARE TO BE
ABLE TO SEE ALL OF BRÜSEL
SPRAWLING BEFORE OUR
EYES. HOW MANY MISTAKES,
HOW MANY ERRORS ARE
GOING TO BE AVOIDED IN THIS
MANNER?



PERSONALLY, I LIKE THIS ONE A LITTLE
LESS...

SORRY, IT'S ALREADY UNDER
CONSTRUCTION!

MR. DE VROUW, I'D LIKE
SOME EXPLANATIONS!



I WOULD LIKE TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE
BUILDING TO WHICH I'VE DEVOTED SO
MUCH TIME IS NOT PART OF THE MODEL.

BUT YOUR BUILDING IS TOO
SMALL, ENTIRELY TOO
MEDIocre. NOW, WE'VE SHIFTED
INTO A HIGHER GEAR...

MR. DE VROUW!

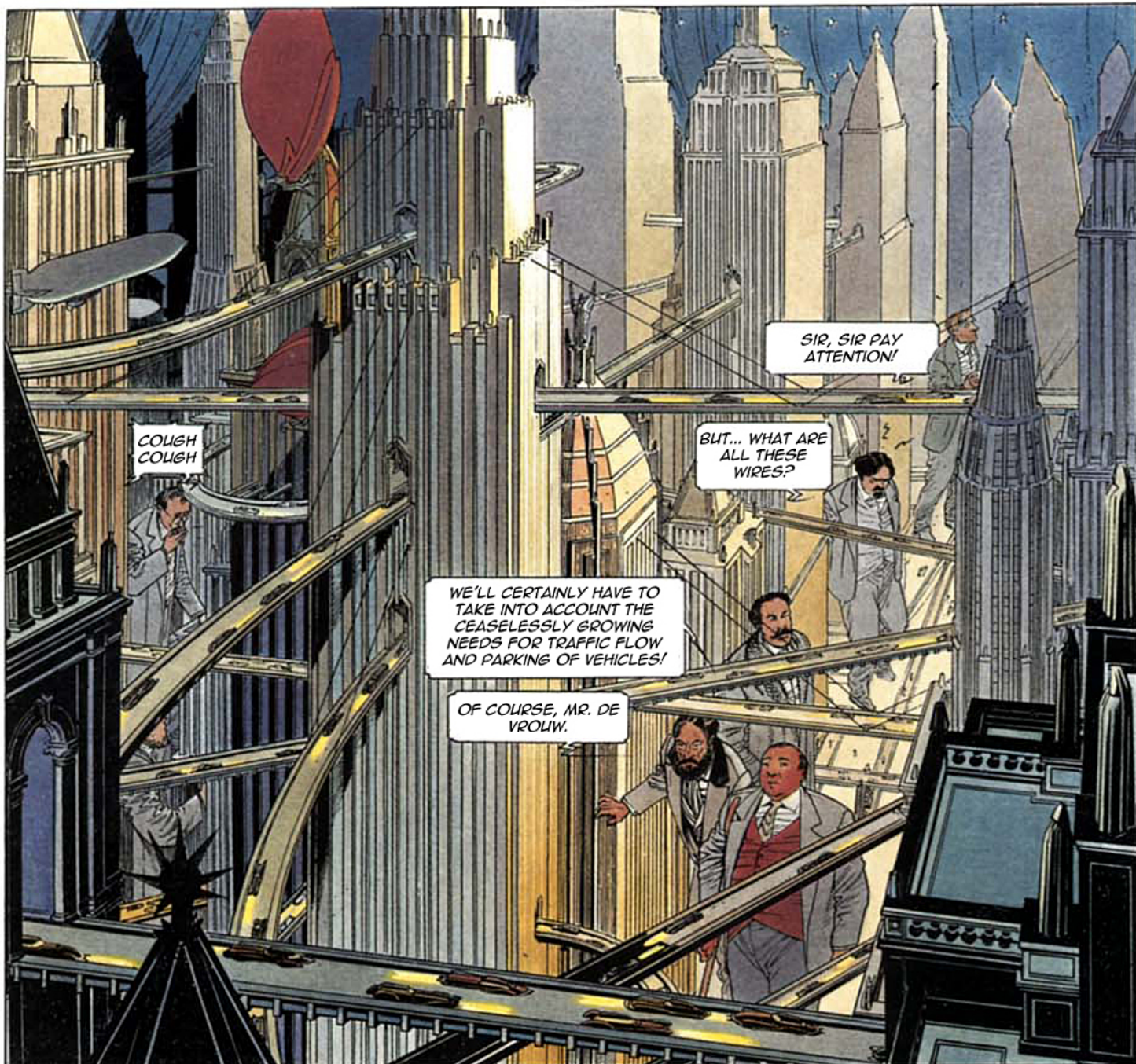


ALL THIS IS SUPERB, BUT I ADMIT TO
BEING A BIT DISAPPOINTED BY THE
DIMENSIONS OF THE CLINIC. DON'T
FORGET THAT PEOPLE WILL COME FROM
ALL OVER THE CONTINENT TO BE CARED
FOR HERE!



AS FOR THE CLINIC, WE'LL HAVE TO ASK
YOU FOR A LITTLE IMAGINATION,
PROFESSOR. THESE VAST ROOMS
WOULDN'T HAVE SUFFICED TO HAVE
CONTAINED IT ENTIRELY.

AH YOU REASSURE ME, I
WAS AFRAID THAT ONCE
AGAIN WE HAD SINNED OUT
OF STINGINESS.



SIR, SIR PAY
ATTENTION!

COUGH
COUGH

BUT... WHAT ARE
ALL THESE
WIRES?

WE'LL CERTAINLY HAVE TO
TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE
CEASELESSLY GROWING
NEEDS FOR TRAFFIC FLOW
AND PARKING OF VEHICLES!

OF COURSE, MR. DE
VROUW.

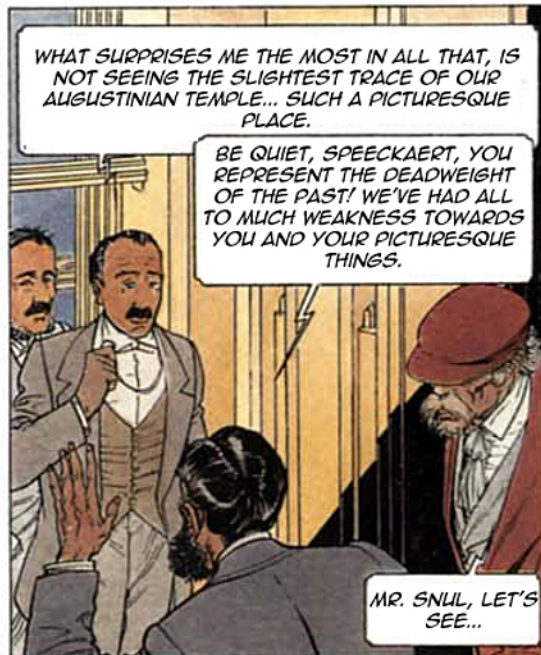


ALL THE SAME, AREN'T YOU AFRAID... THAT ALL
THAT MIGHT BE... TOO AMBITIOUS?

OH NO, YOU AREN'T GOING TO
START ALL THAT AGAIN!!!



WITH THAT SENTENCE, MR.
SLEECKX, YOU JUST JUMPED
WITH BOTH FEET INTO THE
DUSTBINS OF HISTORY! MR.
DE VROUW HAS EXPLAINED IT
TO US TWENTY TIMES: THESE
PROJECTS DO NOT
CONSTITUTE AN EXPENSE, BUT
AN INVESTMENT. THEIR
COMMERCIAL FALLOUT WILL
BE CONSIDERABLE.



WHAT SURPRISES ME THE MOST IN ALL THAT, IS
NOT SEEING THE SLIGHTEST TRACE OF OUR
AUGUSTINIAN TEMPLE... SUCH A PICTURESQUE
PLACE.

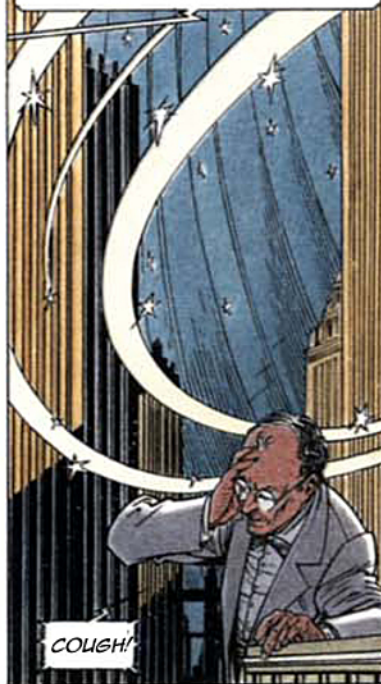
BE QUIET, SPEECKAERT, YOU
REPRESENT THE DEADWEIGHT
OF THE PAST! WE'VE HAD ALL
TO MUCH WEAKNESS TOWARDS
YOU AND YOUR PICTURESQUE
THINGS.

MR. SNUL, LET'S
SEE...

MY GOAL IS THAT THE OLD BRÜSEL GOES OUT WITH A BIG BANG, THAT THE ENTIRE CITY BE NO MORE THAN AN IMMENSE CONSTRUCTION SITE. BUT IN ORDER FOR THAT TO HAPPEN, WE'LL HAVE TO BE LEFT ALONE TO WORK. THE CRITICISMS, INSULTS AND INSINUATIONS WILL HAVE TO CEASE.



BECAUSE AT TIMES, IT SEEMS TO ME IT'S EASIER TO CROSS THE NEPTUNIC OCEAN IN AN CANOE THAN TO CONSTRUCT A BUILDING IN BRÜSEL.



COUGH!

I HAVE THIS EXTRAORDINARY IMPRESSION THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE HERE WHO LET THEMSELVES REFUSE TO CONSIDER THE NECESSITIES OF MODERN LIFE. NEXT TIME, I WILL PROPOSE DOING AWAY WITH LOCOMOTIVES, ALTI-PLANES AND WATER CLOSETS, AND THAT WAY EVERYONE WILL BE HAPPY.



BE REASSURED, MR. DE VROUW, THE ECHEVINAL COLLEGE IS BEHIND YOU. MOREOVER, I SEIZE THIS OCCASION TO THANK YOU IN THE NAME OF THE ENTIRE CITY FOR YOUR UNTIRING DEVOTION.

THANK YOU, YOUR HONORABLE CITY MANAGER!



SO MANY WIRES!

MY POOR FRIEND, HOW THEY'VE TREATED YOU!



I...I THINK THAT I'M GOING TO LAY DOWN A BIT...



COME BY MY PLACE IN A FEW DAYS WITH YOUR CATALOGS OF PLANTS... WE WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OCCASION TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR LITTLE HEALTH PROBLEMS.

I'LL SEE YOU SOON, PROFESSOR... AND... THANK YOU AGAIN...

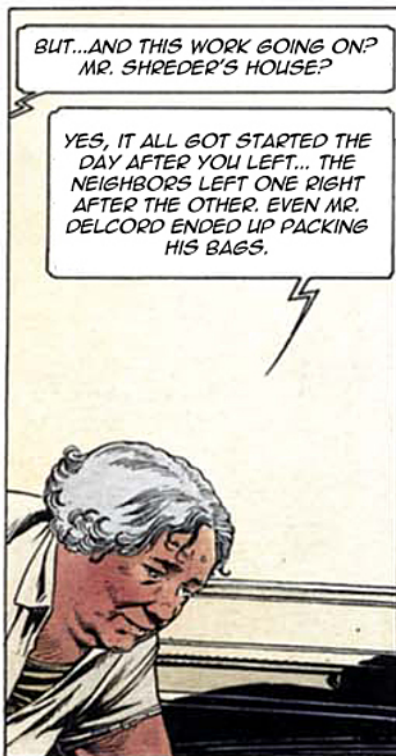


Electricity Is Health

3

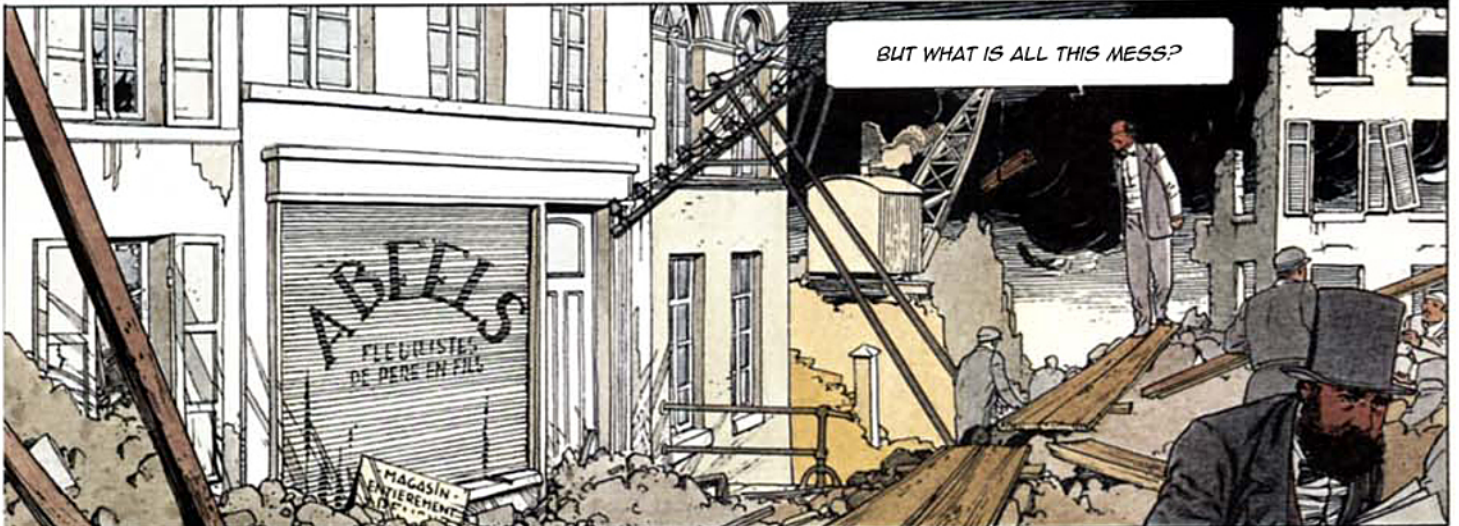
**L'ÉLECTRICITÉ
C'EST LA SANTÉ**





THE CITY OF BRÛSEL - OFFICE OF PUBLIC WORKS





ABEEL'S FLORISTS FROM FATHER TO SON - STORE ENTIRELY RENOVATED





HUH?... HAVE THEY GONE CRAZY OR WHAT? THEY'RE GOING TO HEAR ABOUT THIS ONE!



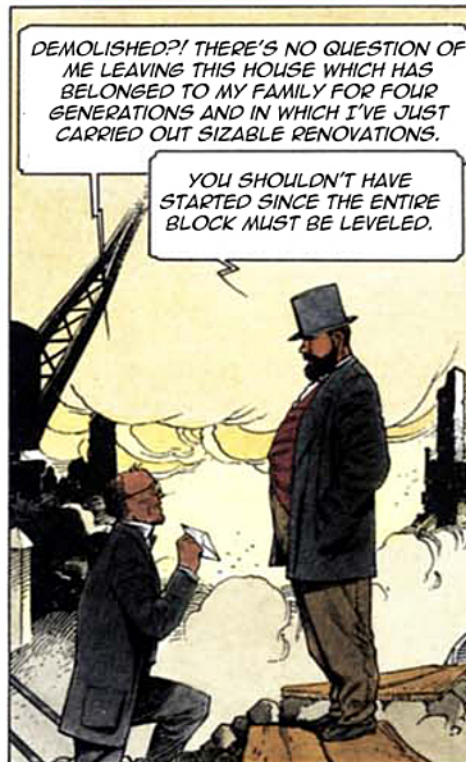
A LITTLE TO THE LEFT... A LITTLE MORE...

WELL, GENTLEMEN, WHAT'S GOING ON? HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MINDS?



I OBSERVE WITH SADNESS THAT THE MARCH TOWARDS PROGRESS IS SHACKLED BY AMATEURS AND THE INCOMPETENT... IF THIS IS THE "DREAM" THAT YOU WERE PROMISING US, I...

LISTEN, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE A BIG DEAL OUT OF A MISHAP! AFTER ALL, THIS ENTIRE BUILDING IS TO BE DEMOLISHED.



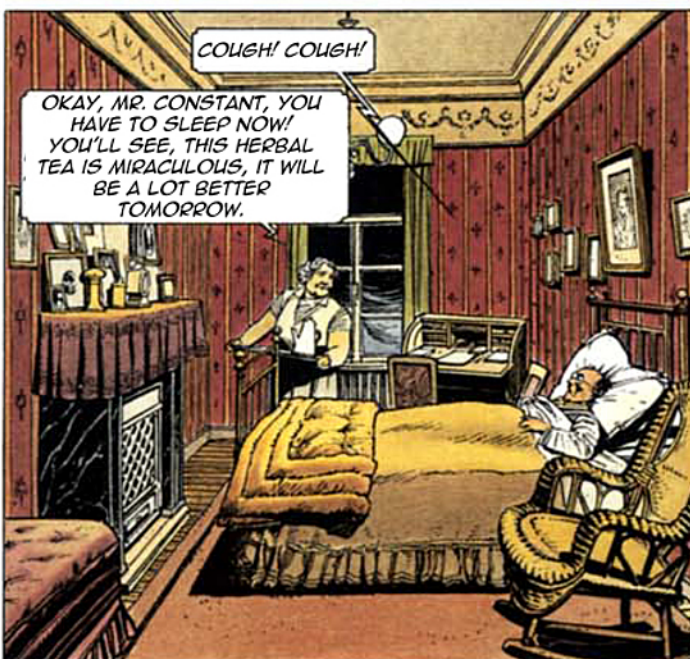
DEMOLISHED?! THERE'S NO QUESTION OF ME LEAVING THIS HOUSE WHICH HAS BELONGED TO MY FAMILY FOR FOUR GENERATIONS AND IN WHICH I'VE JUST CARRIED OUT SIZABLE RENOVATIONS.

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE STARTED SINCE THE ENTIRE BLOCK MUST BE LEVELED.



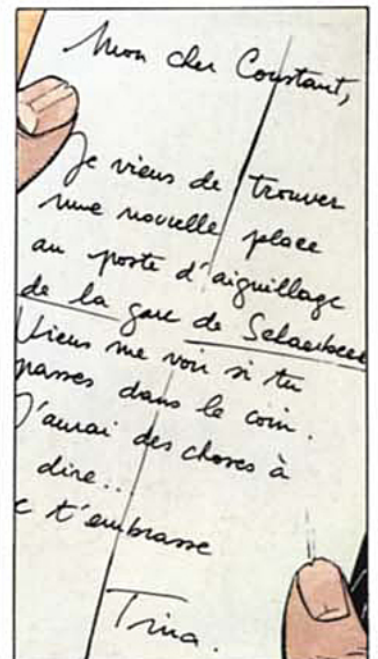
BELIEVE ME, I HAVE NO INTENTION OF LETTING MYSELF BE PUSHED AROUND. I HAVE FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES...

YEAH, YEAH... LET'S GO MEN, WE'LL ATTACK THE OTHER WALL... WE HAVE NO TIME TO LOSE WITH THESE JOKESTERS!



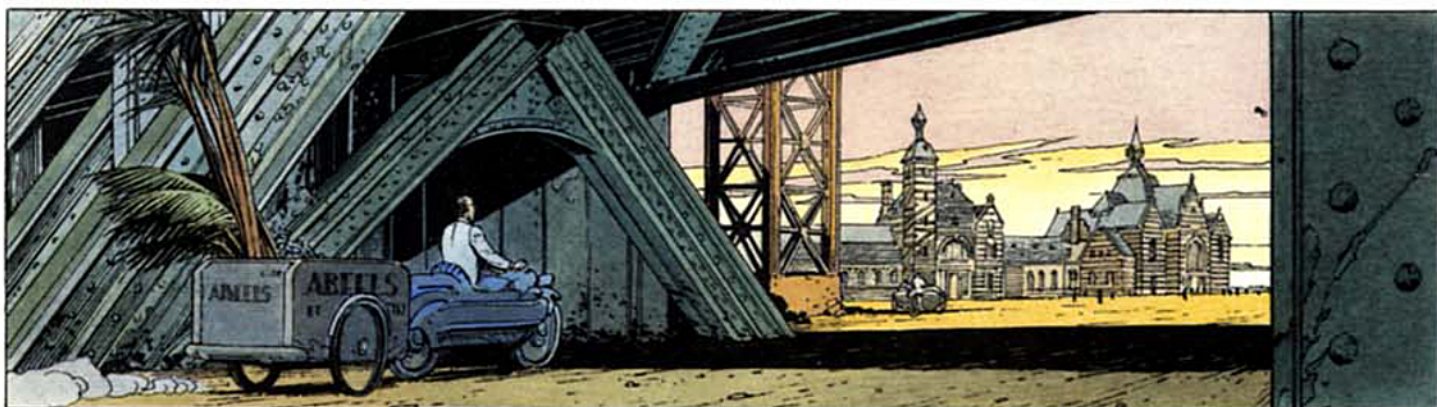
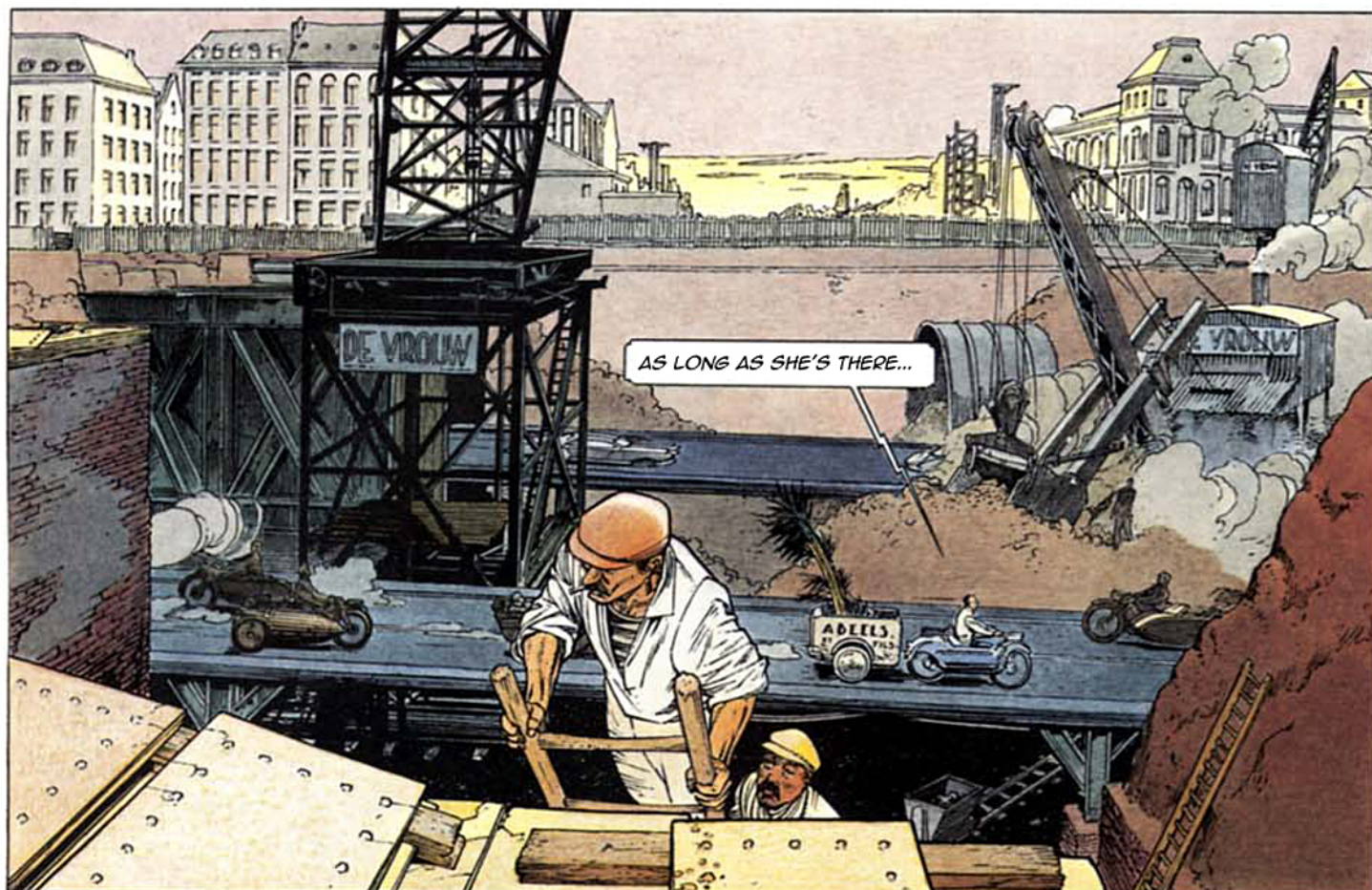
COUGH! COUGH!

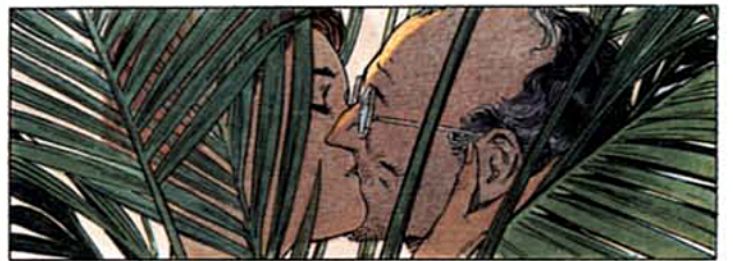
OKAY, MR. CONSTANT, YOU HAVE TO SLEEP NOW! YOU'LL SEE, THIS HERBAL TEA IS MIRACULOUS, IT WILL BE A LOT BETTER TOMORROW.

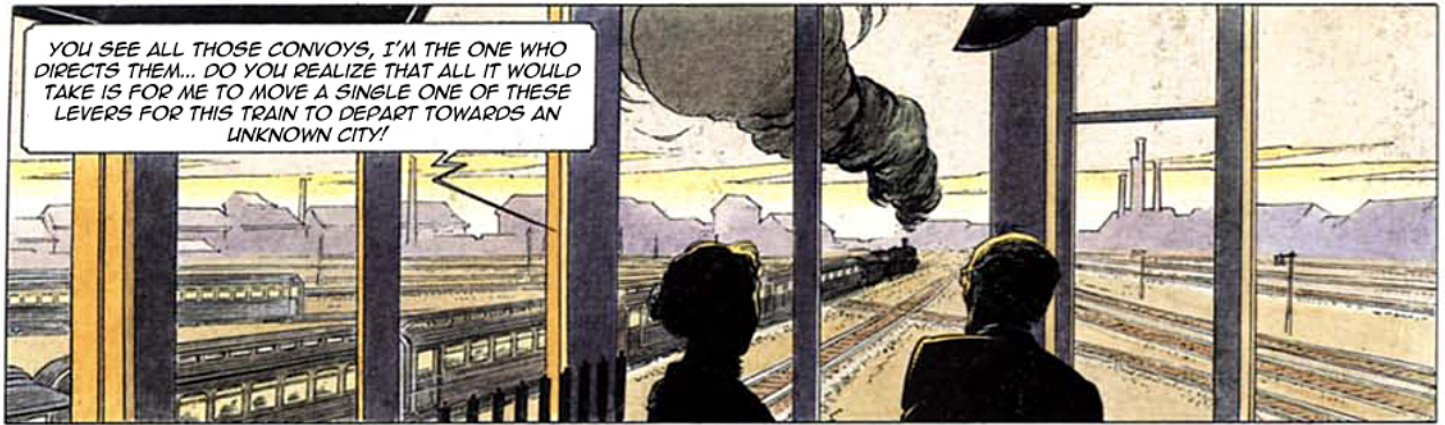


Mon cher Constant,
Je viens de trouver une nouvelle place au poste d'aiguillage de la gare de Sclaebeek. Viens me voir si tu passes dans le coin. J'aurai des choses à dire... c t'embrasse
Tina.

MY DEAR CONSTANT, I'VE JUST FOUND A NEW POSITION AT THE SWITCHING-POINT POST AT THE SCLAEBEEK TRAIN STATION. COME SEE ME IF YOU'RE IN THE AREA. I HAVE SOME THINGS TO SAY...
- KISSES AND HUGS, TINA.







YOU SEE ALL THOSE CONVOYS, I'M THE ONE WHO DIRECTS THEM... DO YOU REALIZE THAT ALL IT WOULD TAKE IS FOR ME TO MOVE A SINGLE ONE OF THESE LEVERS FOR THIS TRAIN TO DEPART TOWARDS AN UNKNOWN CITY!



HERE YOU CAN DO IT YOURSELF... NO, NOT SO HARD... THESE HANDLES ARE EXTREMELY SENSITIVE.

BUT...

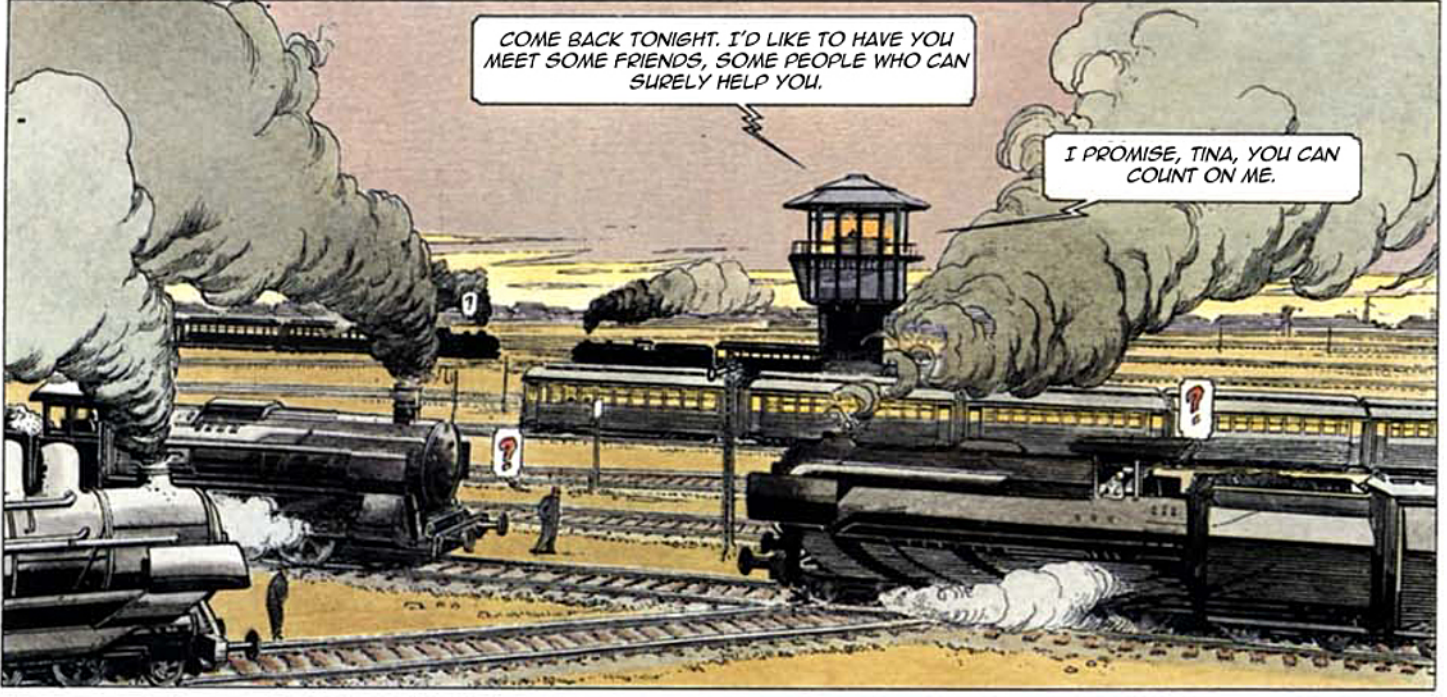


HERE YOU GO... IT'S A LOT BETTER LIKE THAT...



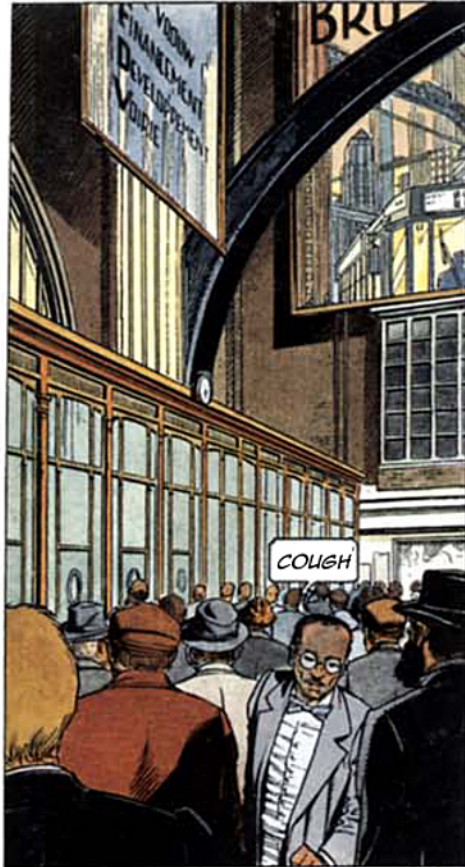
TINA, I WANTED TO SAY TO YOU... I'M REALLY HAPPY TO HAVE MET YOU... I... HOW CAN I SAY IT, I FEEL LIKE...

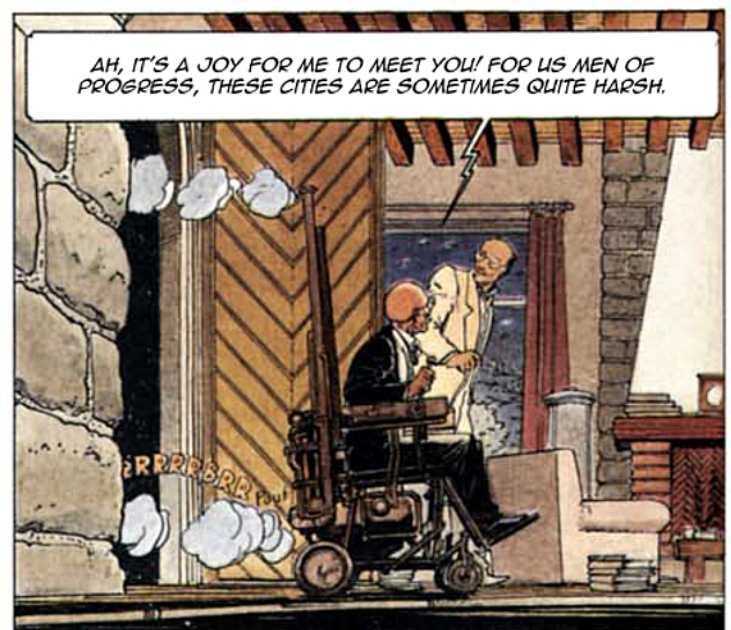
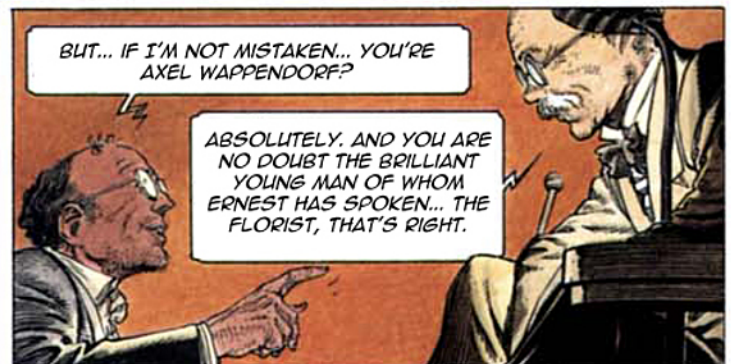
CONSTANT, I FEEL LIKE I HAVE WINGS WITH YOU. AN IRRESISTIBLE NEED TO DO STUPID THINGS.



COME BACK TONIGHT. I'D LIKE TO HAVE YOU MEET SOME FRIENDS, SOME PEOPLE WHO CAN SURELY HELP YOU.

I PROMISE, TINA, YOU CAN COUNT ON ME.







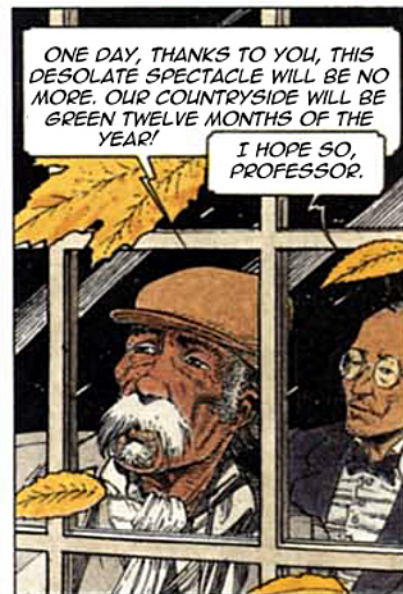
HMM... HELLO PROFESSOR, I CAME TO GIVE YOU SOME PLANTS.



AH IT'S YOU, DEAR FRIEND! WELL, YOU'VE COME JUST IN TIME!

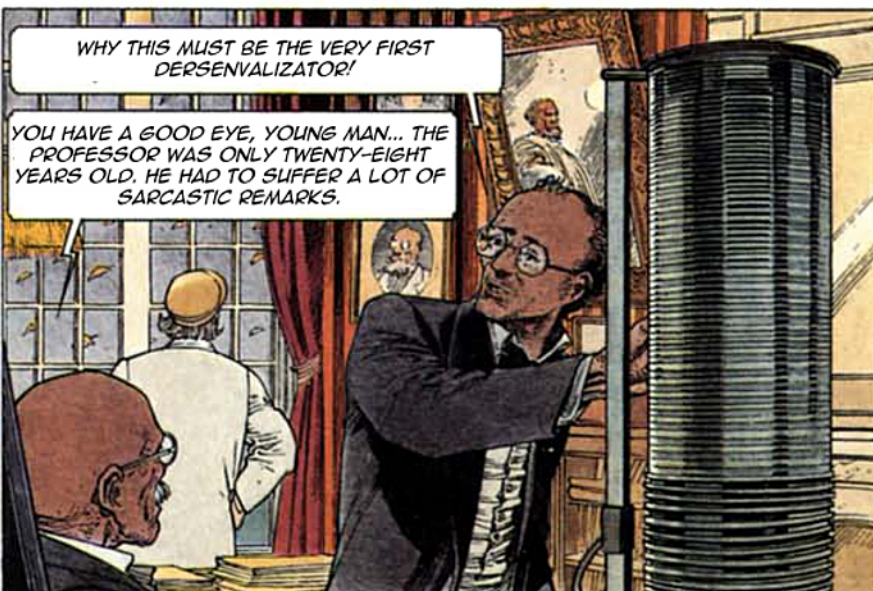


LOOK AT THESE LEAVES: YESTERDAY VERY MUCH ALIVE, TODAY DYING, AND WHICH TOMORROW WILL FORM NO MORE THAN A BLACKENED AND MUDDY CARPET...



ONE DAY, THANKS TO YOU, THIS DESOLATE SPECTACLE WILL BE NO MORE. OUR COUNTRYSIDE WILL BE GREEN TWELVE MONTHS OF THE YEAR!

I HOPE SO, PROFESSOR.



WHY THIS MUST BE THE VERY FIRST DERSENVALIZATOR!

YOU HAVE A GOOD EYE, YOUNG MAN... THE PROFESSOR WAS ONLY TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS OLD. HE HAD TO SUFFER A LOT OF SARCASTIC REMARKS.



WHAT DO YOU WANT: HIGH FREQUENCY HAD COME TOO SOON TO A PHYSIOTHERAPY THAT WAS TOO YOUNG!... MY FRIEND WAPPENDORF HAS BEEN THE VICTIM OF SIMILAR MISUNDERSTANDINGS EVEN LONGER THAN I.



AH DEAR FRIEND, THESE MACHINES ARE MY CHILDREN. I WOULDN'T ABANDON THEM FOR ANYTHING IN THE WORLD.



LOOK AT THIS ONE, IT'S MY LATEST... THE BIGGEST SOLENOID EVER CREATED.



HERE SIT DOWN! IT CAN ONLY DO YOU GOOD.

BUT... PROFESSOR...

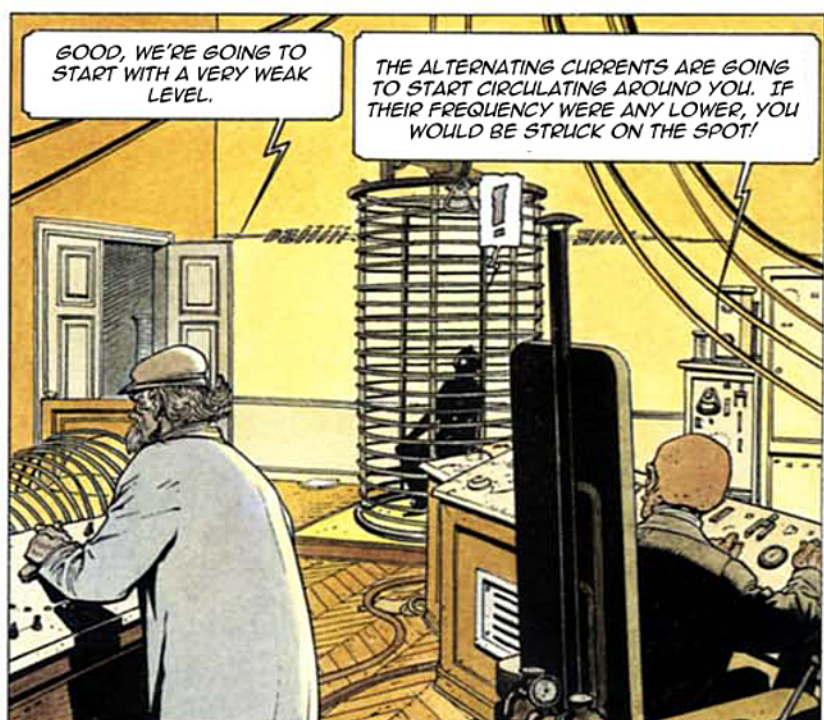
COUGH!



YOU READY, AXEL?

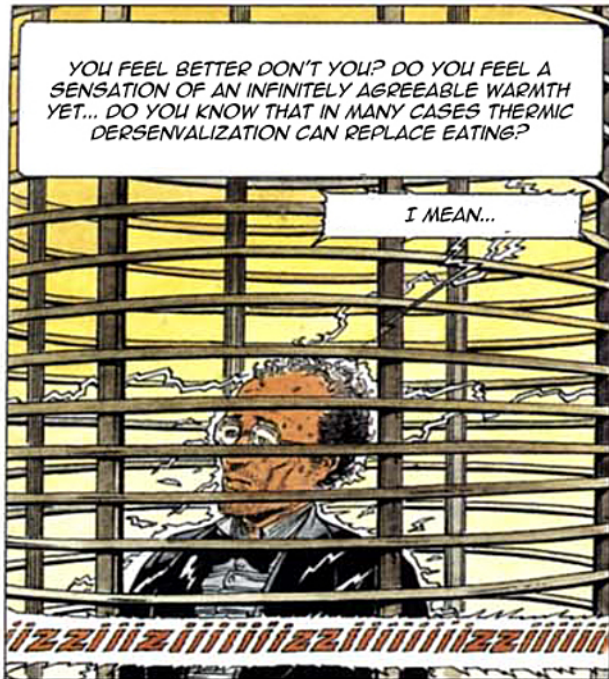
PERFECTLY.

UH... I...



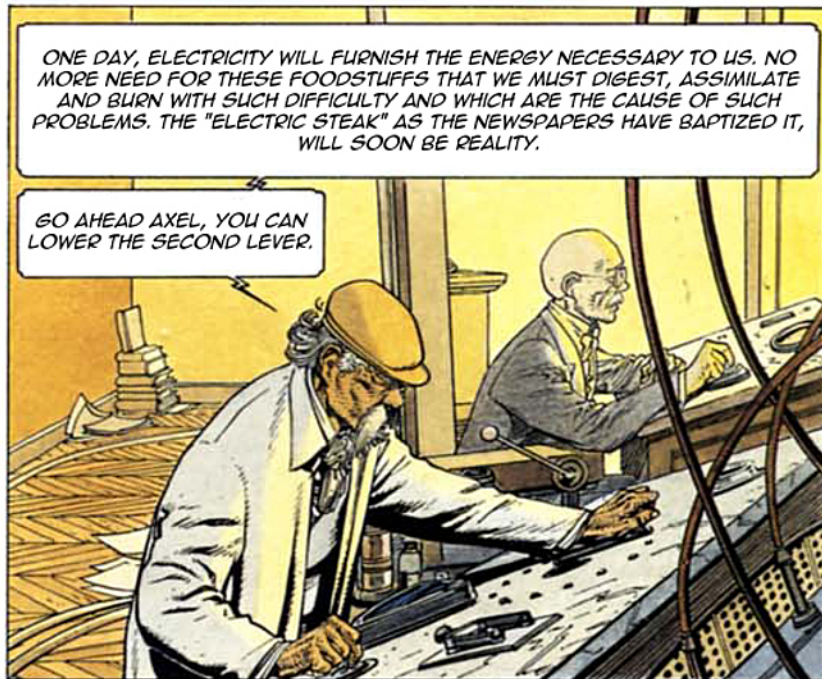
GOOD, WE'RE GOING TO START WITH A VERY WEAK LEVEL.

THE ALTERNATING CURRENTS ARE GOING TO START CIRCULATING AROUND YOU. IF THEIR FREQUENCY WERE ANY LOWER, YOU WOULD BE STRUCK ON THE SPOT!



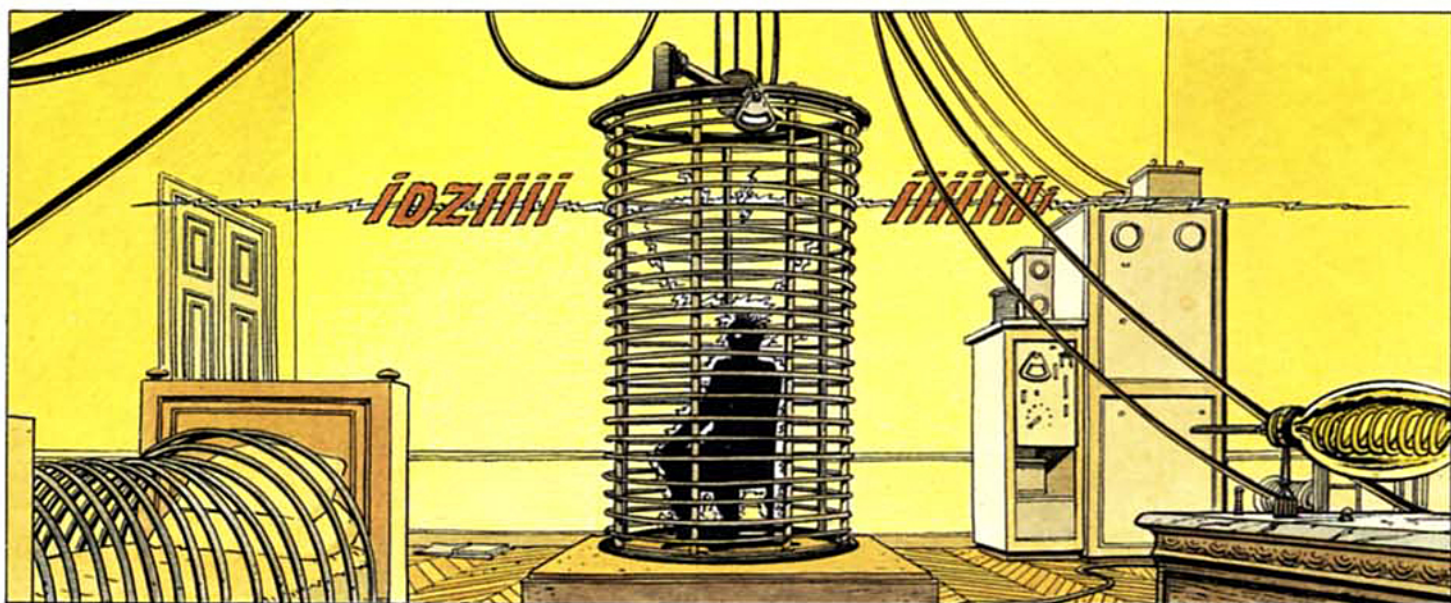
YOU FEEL BETTER DON'T YOU? DO YOU FEEL A SENSATION OF AN INFINITELY AGREEABLE WARMTH YET... DO YOU KNOW THAT IN MANY CASES THERMIC DERSENVALIZATION CAN REPLACE EATING?

I MEAN...

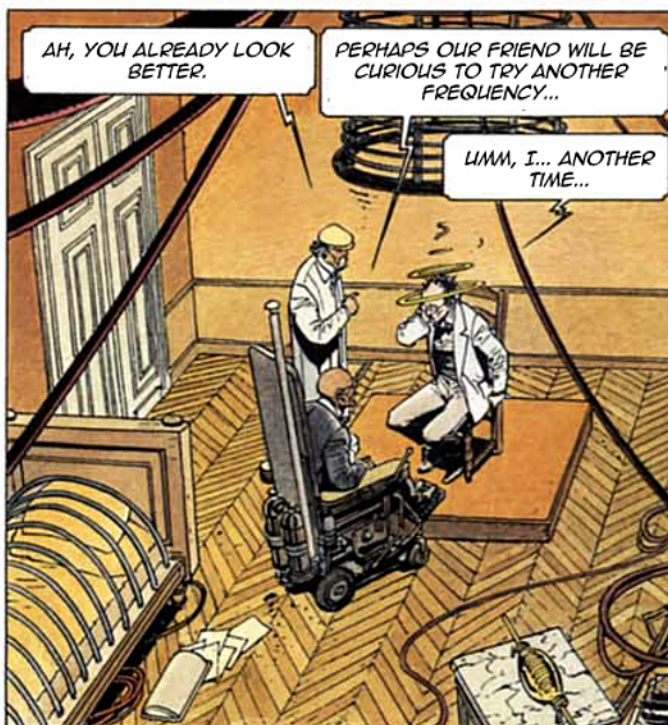


ONE DAY, ELECTRICITY WILL FURNISH THE ENERGY NECESSARY TO US. NO MORE NEED FOR THESE FOODSTUFFS THAT WE MUST DIGEST, ASSIMILATE AND BURN WITH SUCH DIFFICULTY AND WHICH ARE THE CAUSE OF SUCH PROBLEMS. THE "ELECTRIC STEAK" AS THE NEWSPAPERS HAVE BAPTIZED IT, WILL SOON BE REALITY.

GO AHEAD AXEL, YOU CAN LOWER THE SECOND LEVER.



AND THERE!



AH, YOU ALREADY LOOK BETTER.

PERHAPS OUR FRIEND WILL BE CURIOUS TO TRY ANOTHER FREQUENCY...

UHM, I... ANOTHER TIME...



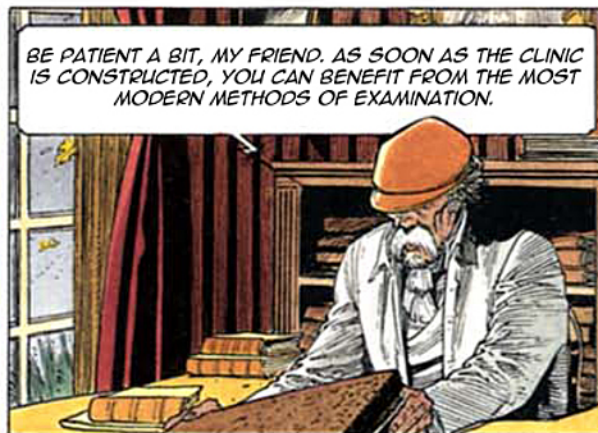
BUT OF COURSE YOU'LL HAVE TO COME BACK... A FEW SESSIONS OF ELECTROTHERAPY AND YOUR COUGH WILL BE NO MORE THAN A DISTANT MEMORY...

OH MY! WE WENT AT IT A BIT TOO STRONG!

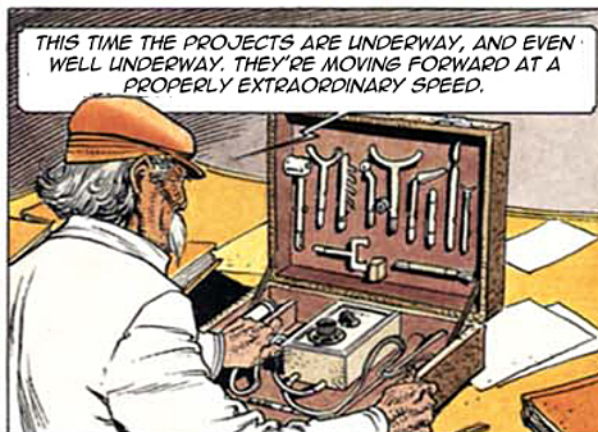


ONE OF THE PHYSICIANS SPOKE OF TUBERCULOSIS...

THEY ARE ASSES, THEY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT.



BE PATIENT A BIT, MY FRIEND. AS SOON AS THE CLINIC IS CONSTRUCTED, YOU CAN BENEFIT FROM THE MOST MODERN METHODS OF EXAMINATION.



THIS TIME THE PROJECTS ARE UNDERWAY, AND EVEN WELL UNDERWAY. THEY'RE MOVING FORWARD AT A PROPERLY EXTRAORDINARY SPEED.



I HOPE, IN ANY CASE, THAT THEY ARE ACTING WITH MORE DISCERNMENT THAN AT MY PLACE...THE WORKERS BEHAVED LIKE BRUTES.



BAH, WHAT DO YOU WANT? WE CAN'T MAKE OVER BRÜSEL WITHOUT STEPPING ON SOME TOES! AND DO RECOGNIZE THAT THIS HOUSE WAS HARDLY GOOD FOR YOU.



AH, IT'S SO LATE! I DIDN'T SEE THE TIME GO BY. EXCUSE ME, PROFESSOR, I HAVE TO RETURN.

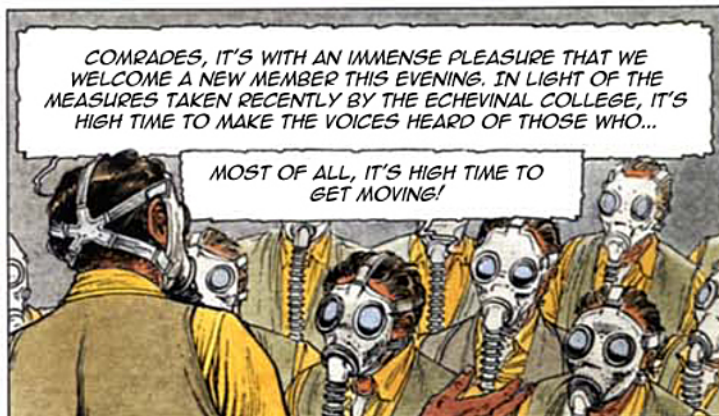
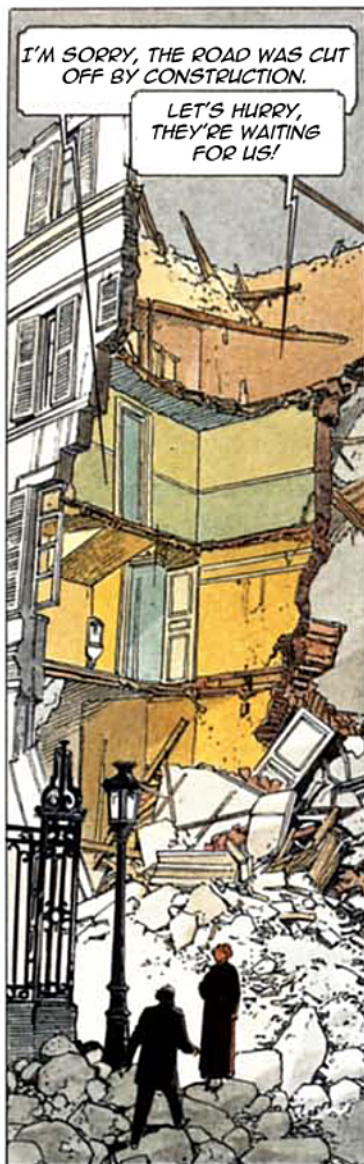


NOT BEFORE SHOWING US THESE FAMOUS PLANTS! I'M ANXIOUS TO HAVE THEM SET UP HERE.

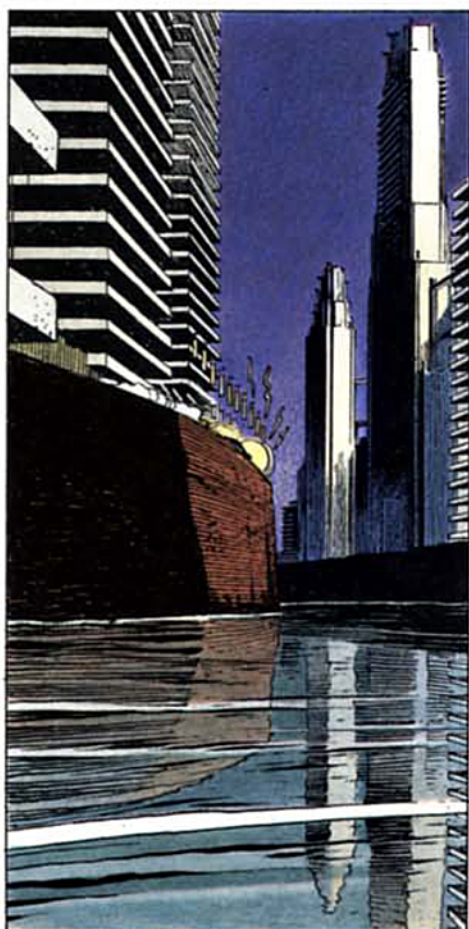


AGAIN THANKS AND COME BACK AND SEE US SOON!

GOODBYE!







Everybody To The Hospital With Dersenva!

4







AHHH...
AHHH...

WHAT A PITY... AS THOUGH WE
DIDN'T ALREADY HAVE
ENOUGH MUD!



I... I MUST CALL THE PROFESSOR...
IT'S... THE LAST CHANCE...



GO ON, JUST LEAN ON
ME! I'M STILL AS SOLID
AS A ROCK, YOU KNOW.



THEY'VE ALL LEFT FOR
LUNCH. I KNOW THE
OVERSEER. HE'LL LET US
CALL.



SO, MARIE-JEANNE, ARE
THINGS GOING YOUR WAY?

HELLO, JACKY. SAY,
COULD WE MAKE A
TELEPHONE CALL?



WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF
TELEPHONES HERE. THEY TOOK
OUT ALL THE LINES FROM THE
STREET.

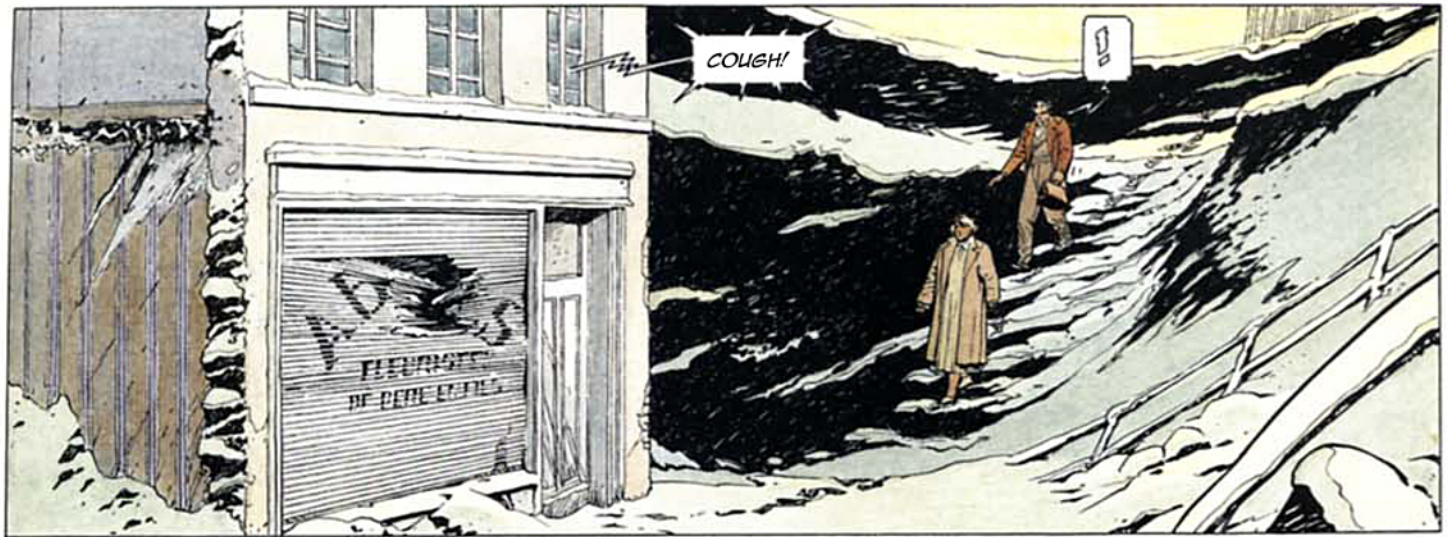


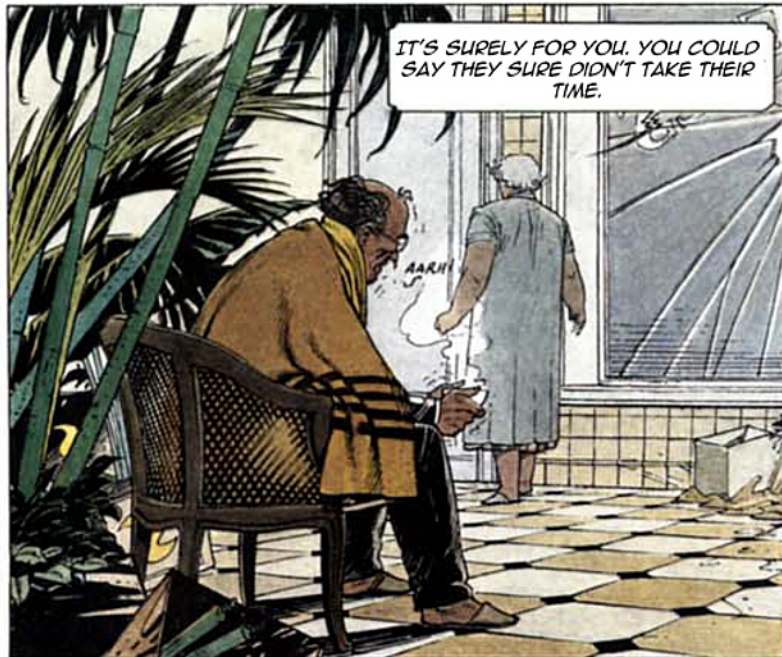
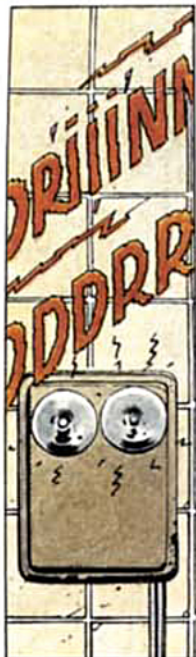
HELLO, PROFESSOR... IT'S ME,
CONSTANT... NO, I'M DOING VERY
BADLY... I NEED YOUR HELP.



NO... I DON'T THINK THAT I WOULD HAVE
THE STRENGTH TO GO ALL THE WAY
THERE... YES... YES... THANK YOU,
PROFESSOR, THANK YOU VERY MUCH...

WELL, HE HAS DECIDED TO LEAVE,
YOU MIGHT SAY...





IT'S SURELY FOR YOU. YOU COULD SAY THEY SURE DIDN'T TAKE THEIR TIME.

AARRH!



CONSTANT ABEELS? IS THIS THE PLACE? HAVE HIM HURRY, MR. DE VROUW IS WAITING.



MR. DE VROUW...?

COME ON, A LITTLE EFFORT AND YOU'LL BE THERE!



WATCH OUT, IT'S TAKING OFF AGAIN...

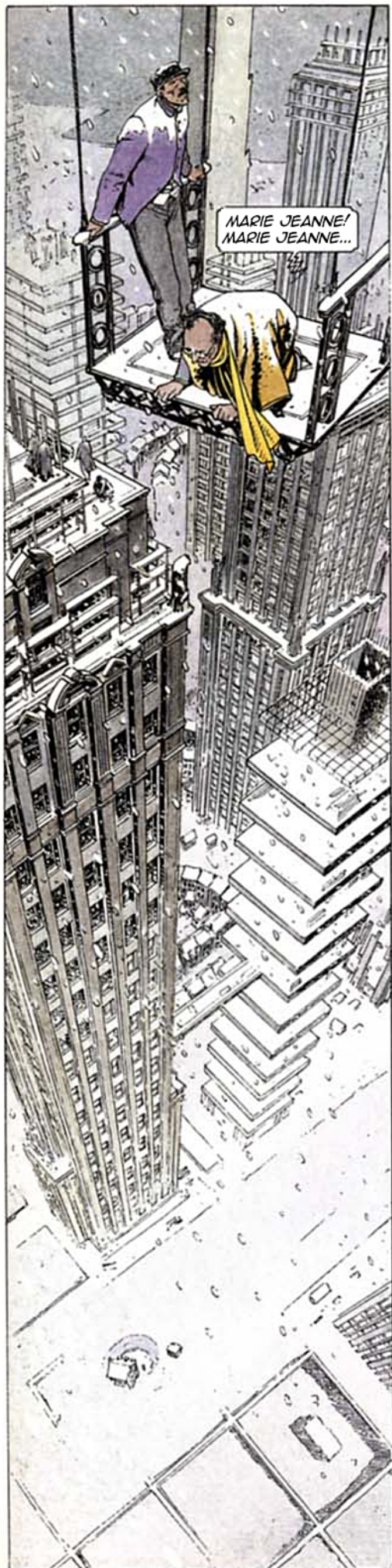
SEE YOU SOON, MARIE-JEANNE... LOOK AFTER THE HOUSE!

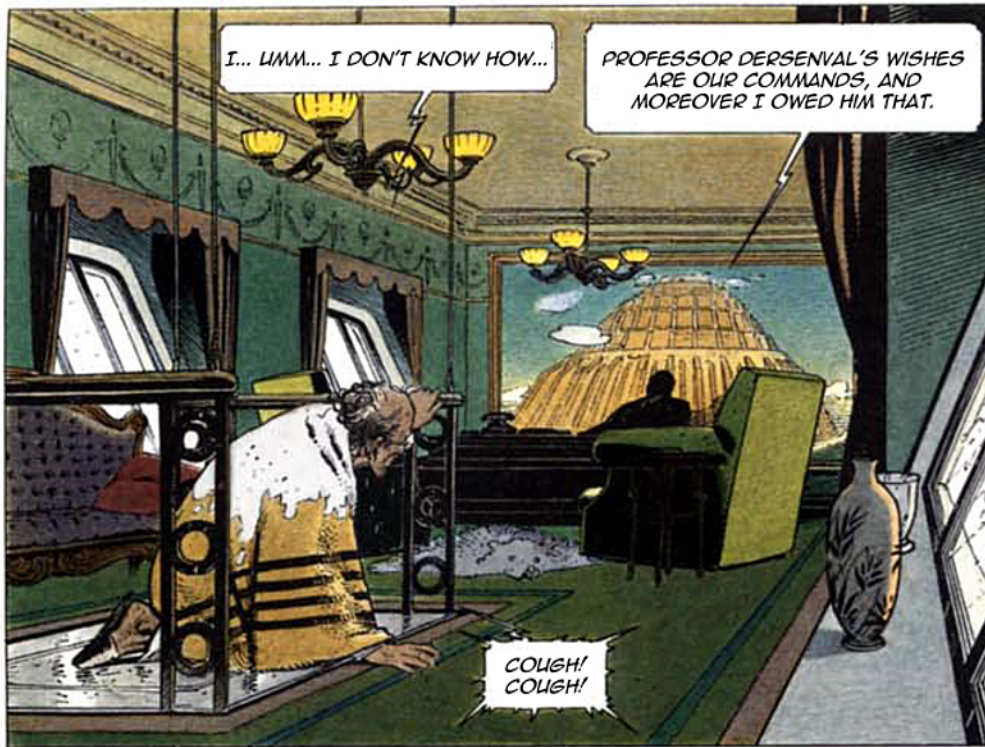


I'M COUNTING ON YOU... YOU MUSTN'T GIVE IN TO THEM.



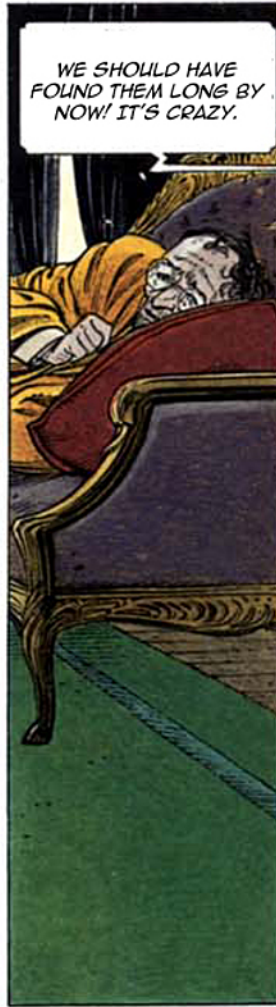
BUT...



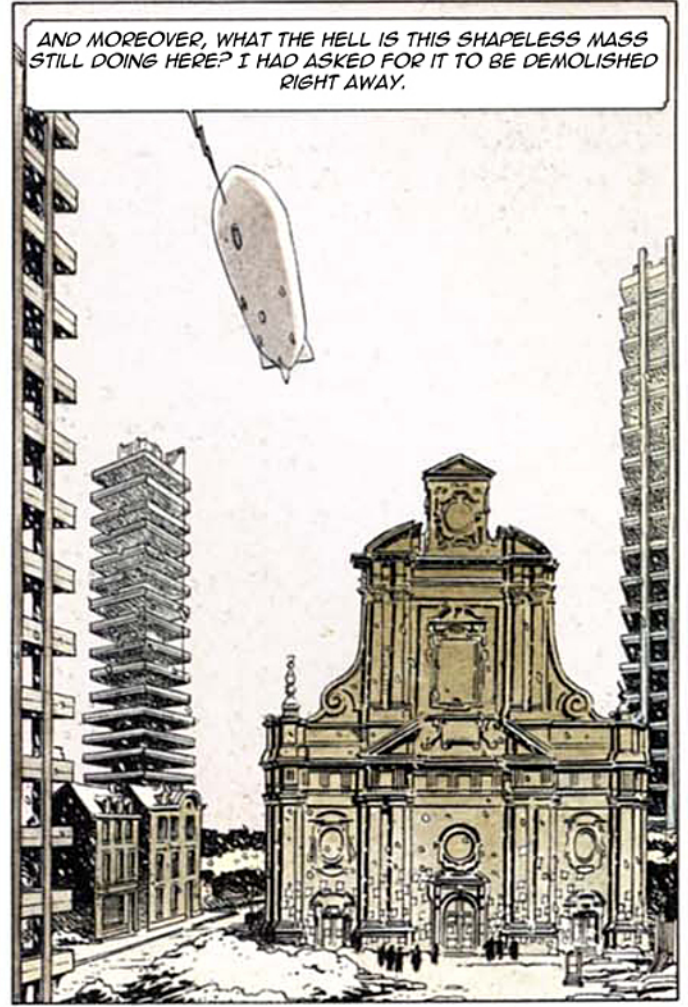




PIMP...PIMP! THOSE MISERABLE...! IF THEY FALL INTO MY HANDS, I'LL MAKE MINCEMEAT OUT OF THEM...



WE SHOULD HAVE FOUND THEM LONG BY NOW! IT'S CRAZY.



AND MOREOVER, WHAT THE HELL IS THIS SHAPELESS MASS STILL DOING HERE? I HAD ASKED FOR IT TO BE DEMOLISHED RIGHT AWAY.



BUT...THE CITY MANAGER HIMSELF INSISTED THAT THIS FACADE BE PRESERVED.

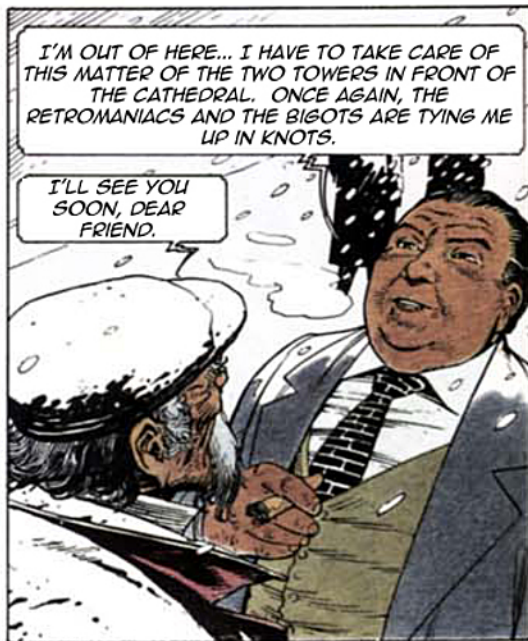


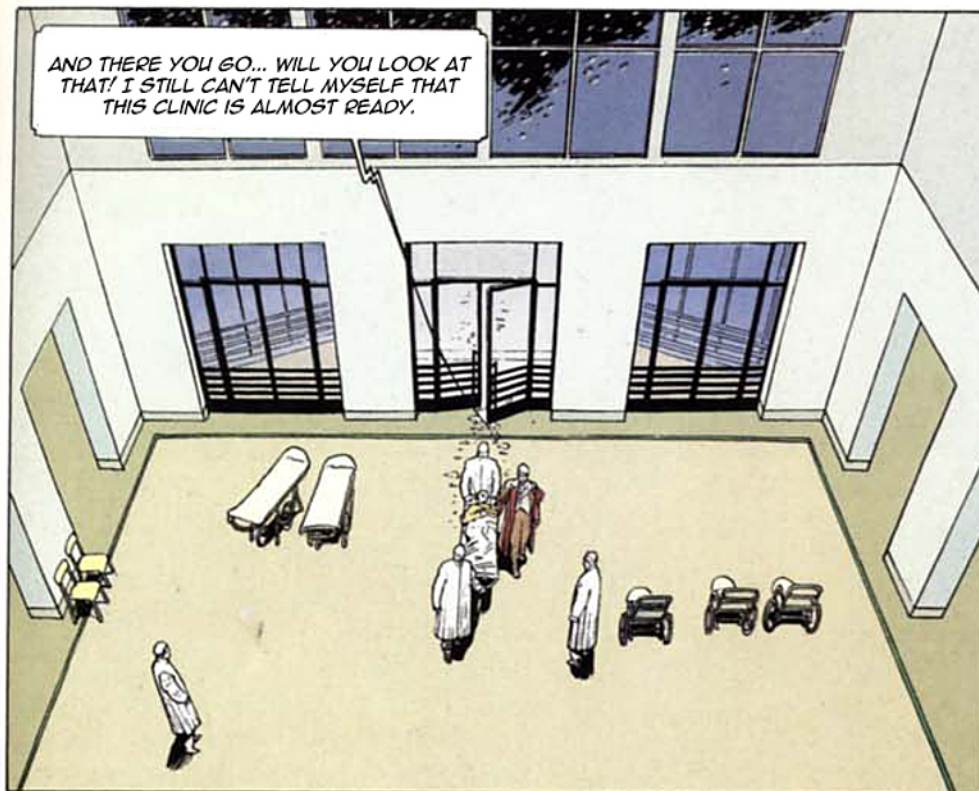
THE CITY MANAGER? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH. WITHOUT ME, HE'D STILL BE SELLING PEANUTS... TEAR DOWN THIS FACADE, WE'LL FIND SOMEWHERE TO PUT IT BACK TOGETHER.

COUGH! COUGH!



COUGH!
COUGH!



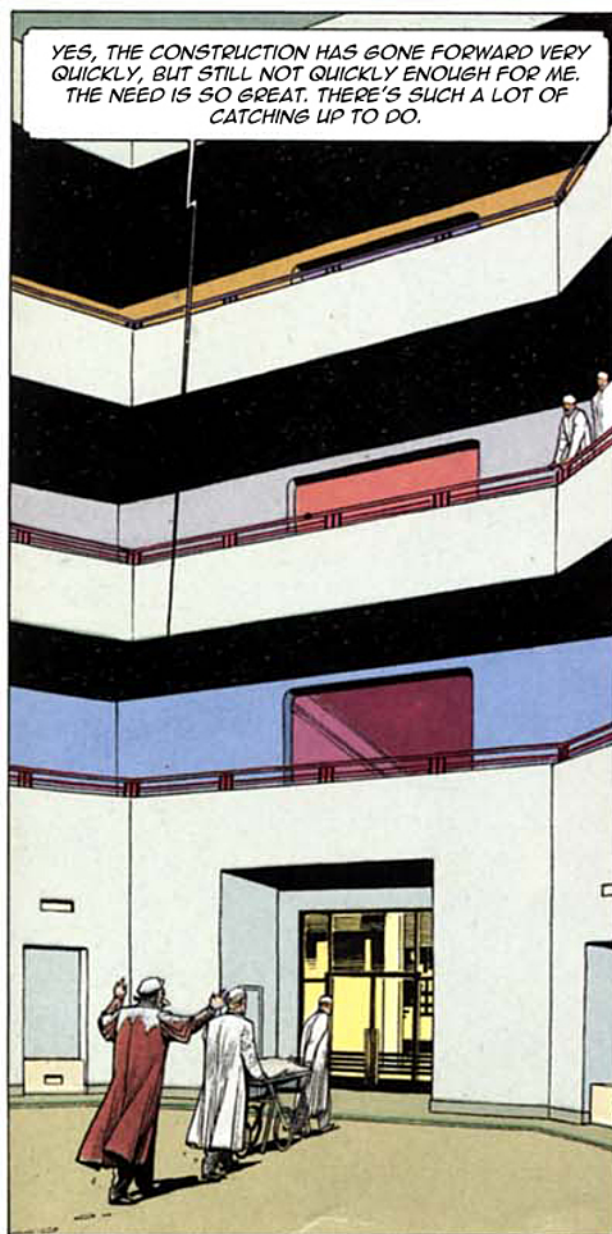


AND THERE YOU GO... WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT! I STILL CAN'T TELL MYSELF THAT THIS CLINIC IS ALMOST READY.

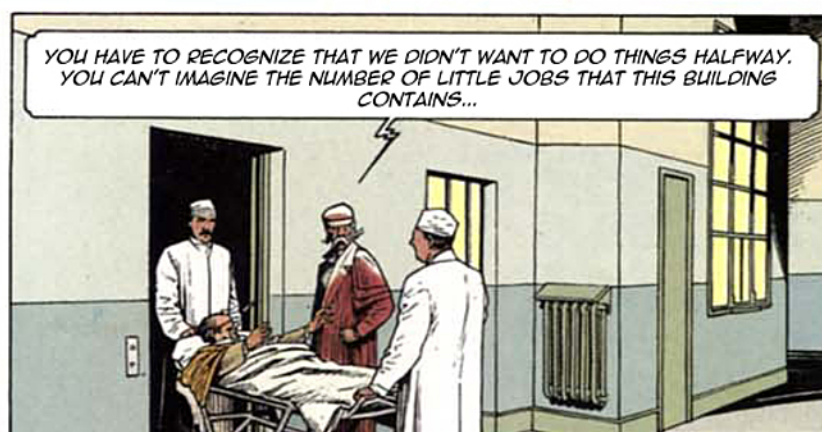


DO YOU KNOW, CONSTANT, THAT YOU ARE OUR FIRST PATIENT... BELIEVE ME, IT'S A GREAT HONOR THAT YOU DO US!

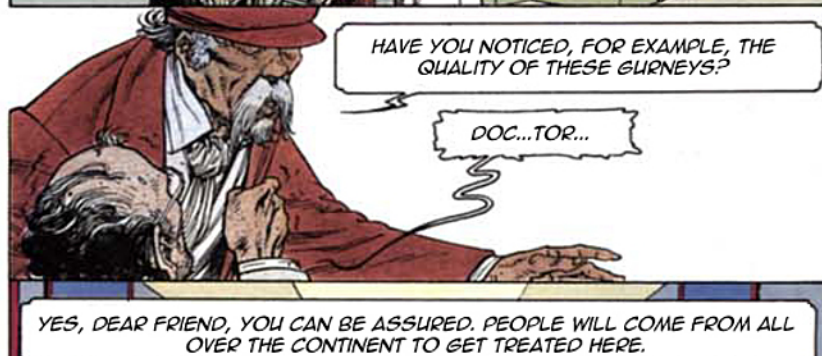
DOCTOR...



YES, THE CONSTRUCTION HAS GONE FORWARD VERY QUICKLY, BUT STILL NOT QUICKLY ENOUGH FOR ME. THE NEED IS SO GREAT. THERE'S SUCH A LOT OF CATCHING UP TO DO.



YOU HAVE TO RECOGNIZE THAT WE DIDN'T WANT TO DO THINGS HALFWAY. YOU CAN'T IMAGINE THE NUMBER OF LITTLE JOBS THAT THIS BUILDING CONTAINS...



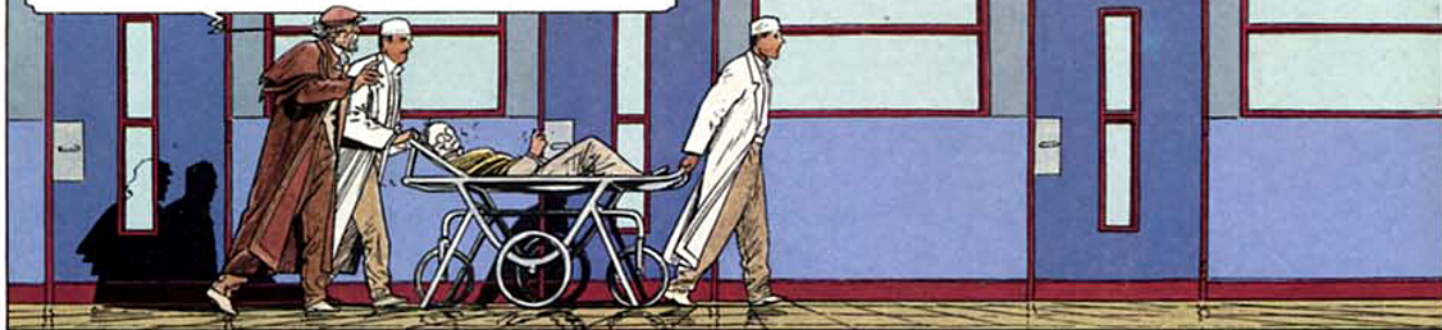
HAVE YOU NOTICED, FOR EXAMPLE, THE QUALITY OF THESE GURNEYS?

DOC...TOR...

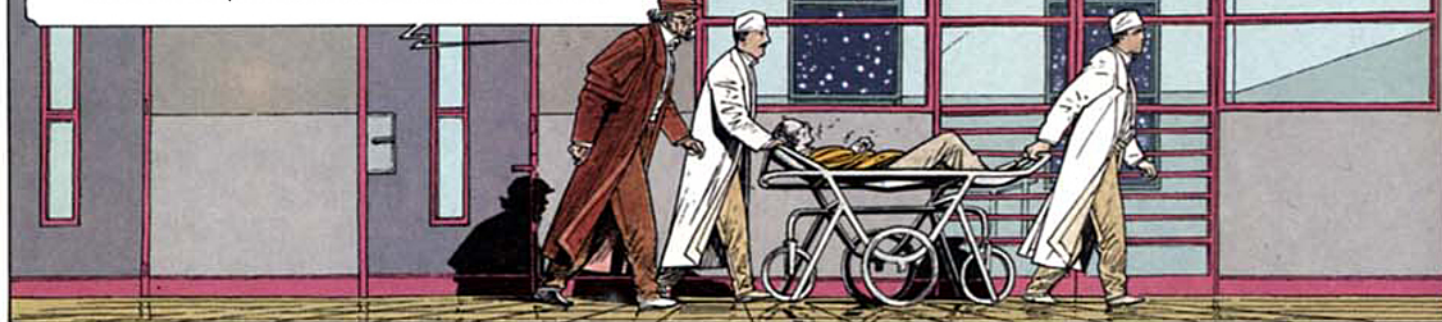
YES, DEAR FRIEND, YOU CAN BE ASSURED. PEOPLE WILL COME FROM ALL OVER THE CONTINENT TO GET TREATED HERE.



CROSSING THIS CLINIC, PHYSICIANS, PATIENTS AND VISITORS WILL BE BATHED IN A VERITABLE FAIRYLAND OF COLORS. EACH FLOOR HAS ITS OWN TONE, EACH DESK ITS OWN SHADES.



FOR CARDIOLOGY, I'VE CHOSEN RED AND BLUE. FOR NEUROLOGY, PINK AND GRAY. FOR OPHTHALMOLOGY, MAUVE AND BEIGE... THIS SYSTEM PRESENTS GREAT ADVANTAGES, NOTABLY FOR FINDING ONE'S WAY.



AND HERE'S THE ROOM THAT I HAVE SET ASIDE FOR YOU. I'M SURE IT WILL PLEASE YOU...



DOC...

UH...



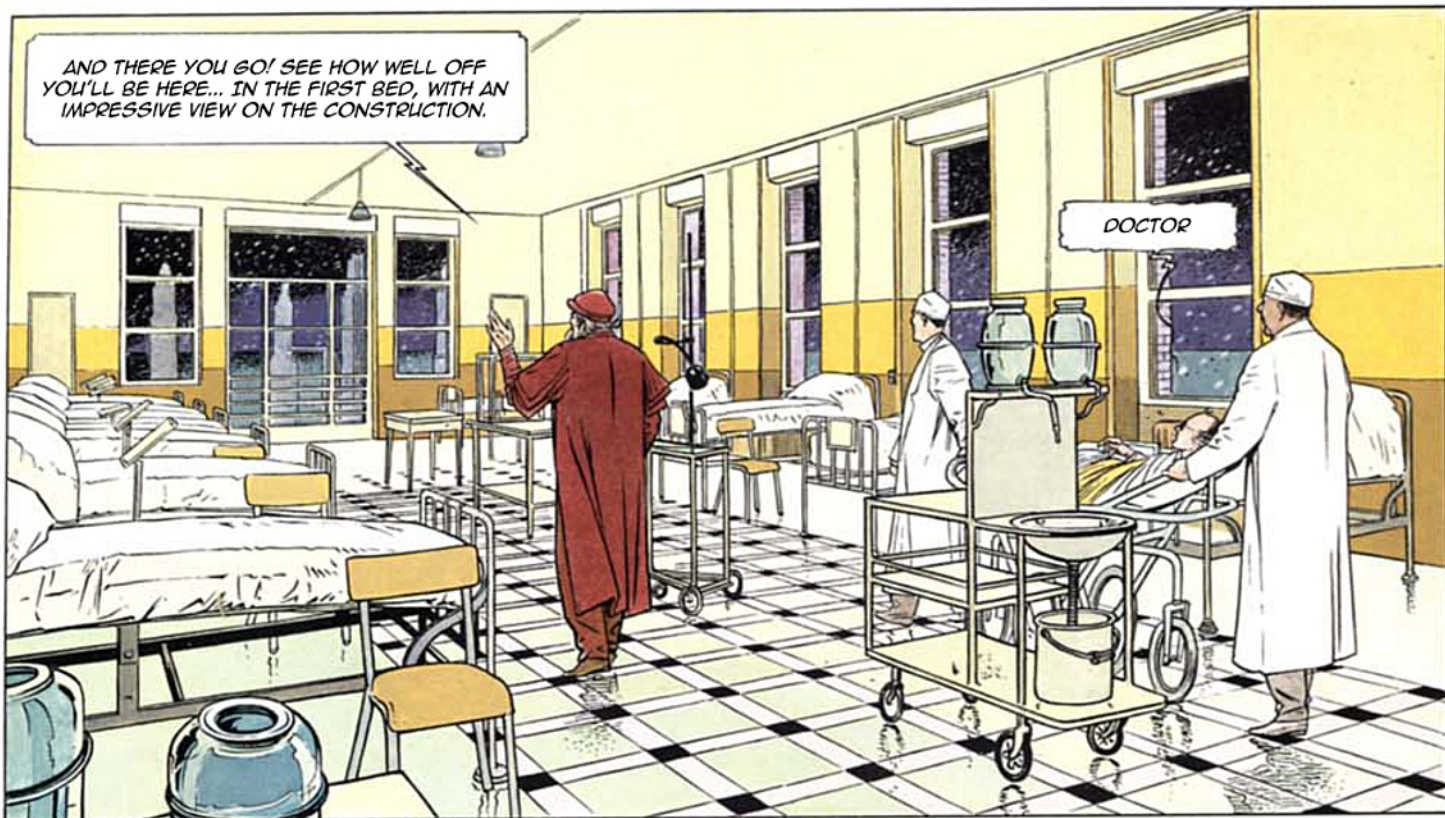
IT MUST NOT BE HERE.

...TOR..



AH, THE ELECTRIC LANCETS HAVE FINALLY ARRIVED! IT'S A VERY GOOD THING FOR YOU!





AND THERE YOU GO! SEE HOW WELL OFF YOU'LL BE HERE... IN THE FIRST BED, WITH AN IMPRESSIVE VIEW ON THE CONSTRUCTION.

DOCTOR



YOU WILL BENEFIT FROM AN EXCEPTIONAL EXPOSURE TO THE SUN, AND A SUPERB TERRACE. IN TWO OR THREE DAYS, I'M SURE THAT YOU WON'T EVER GO AWAY FROM THERE.



DOCTOR... DOC... TOR...



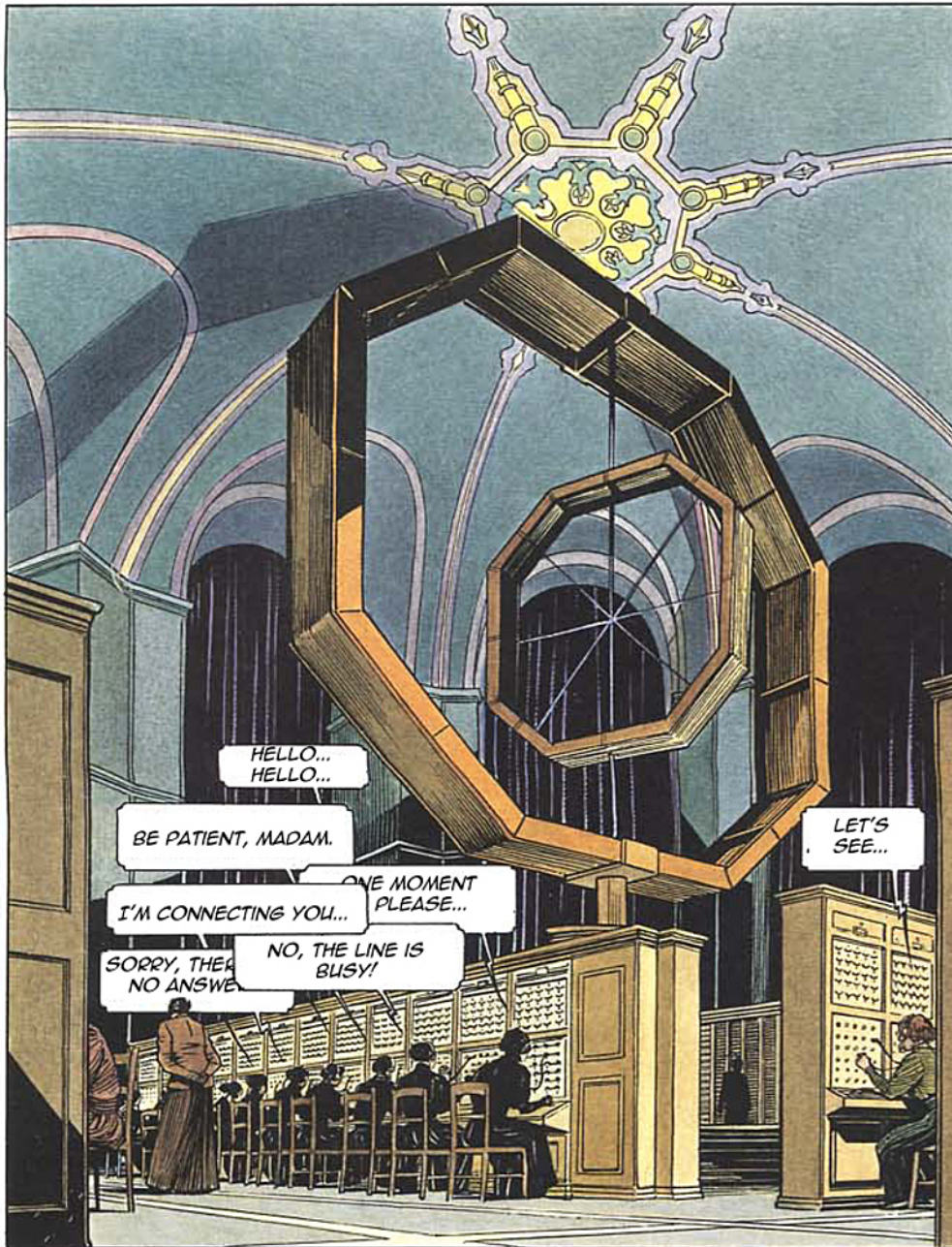
REALLY, YOU CAN'T KNOW THE PLEASURE I HAVE IN RECEIVING A PATIENT OF YOUR CALIBER.

PROFESSOR, HE...



YES, WHAT? WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM NOW?

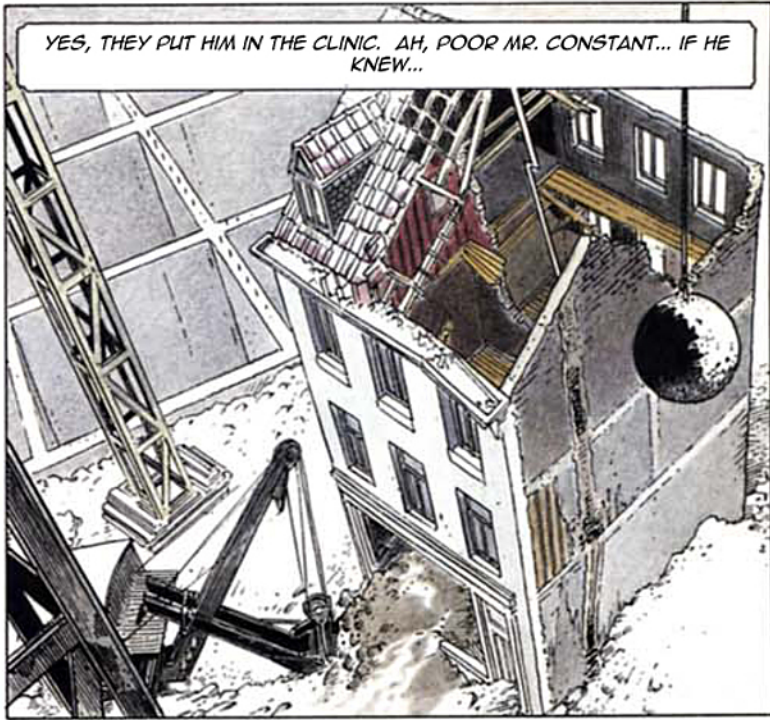
HE FAINTED.



MR. CONSTANT?... NO, MADAM, HE'S NOT HERE... MR. DE VROUW CAME BY TO GET HIM.



YES, THEY PUT HIM IN THE CLINIC. AH, POOR MR. CONSTANT... IF HE KNEW...



HONORABLE CITY MANAGER, I DEMAND TO SPEAK!

IT'S ALDERMAN SLEECKX'S TURN TO SPEAK.



I HAVE ANALYZED MOST CAREFULLY THE FILE SUBMITTED BY MR. ABEELS CONSTANT, RESIDING AT #13 HAY QUAY... THE REQUEST OF THIS RESIDENT IS PERFECTLY ADMISSIBLE. THE EXPROPRIATION PROCESS WAS NOT CARRIED OUT ACCORDING TO PROCEDURE. THESE UNJUSTIFIABLE DEMOLITIONS MUST CEASE.



WE KNOW VERY WELL WHAT TO THINK ABOUT THE SO-CALLED MISFORTUNES OF THESE RESIDENTS. IT MUSTN'T, ALL THE SAME, BE FORGOTTEN THAT IT'S ALMOST UNIQUELY A QUESTION OF PROFESSIONAL AGITATORS AND SOCIALLY IMPOSSIBLE INDIVIDUALS.



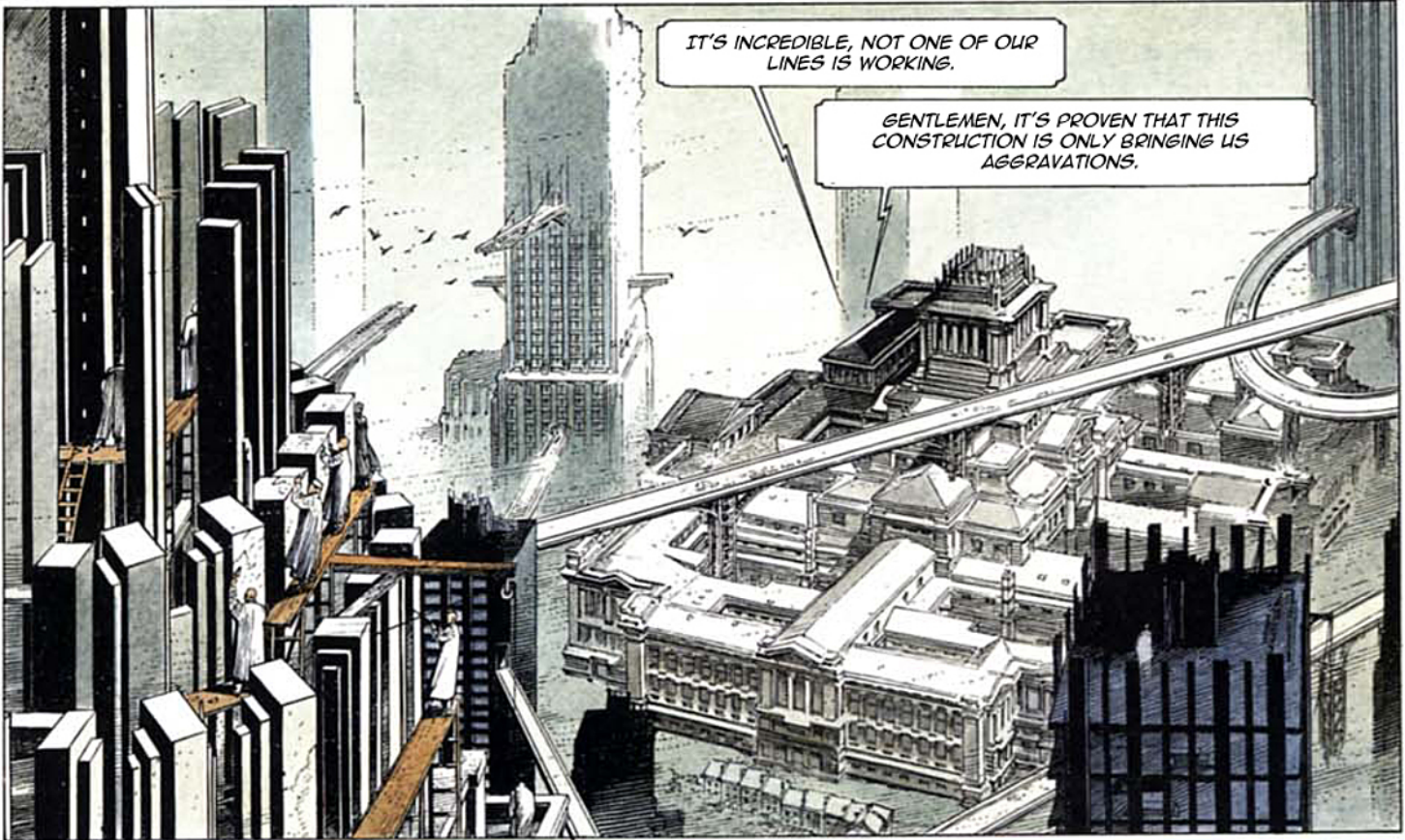
AND MOREOVER, MR. DE VROUW HAS EXPLAINED TO US VERY WELL...

LET'S TALK ABOUT MR. DE VROUW!



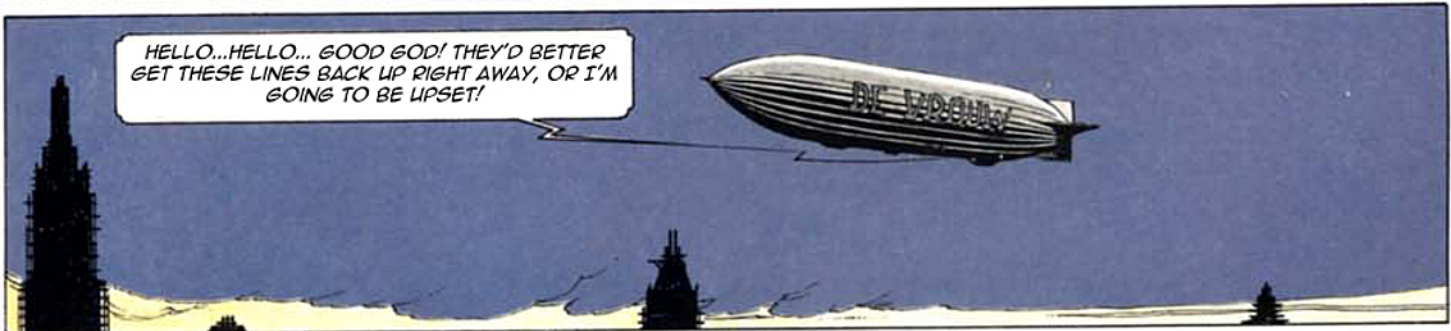


HELLO...HELLO... WELL, WHAT ON EARTH? THIS TELEPHONE DOESN'T WORK... NOR THAT ONE EITHER!

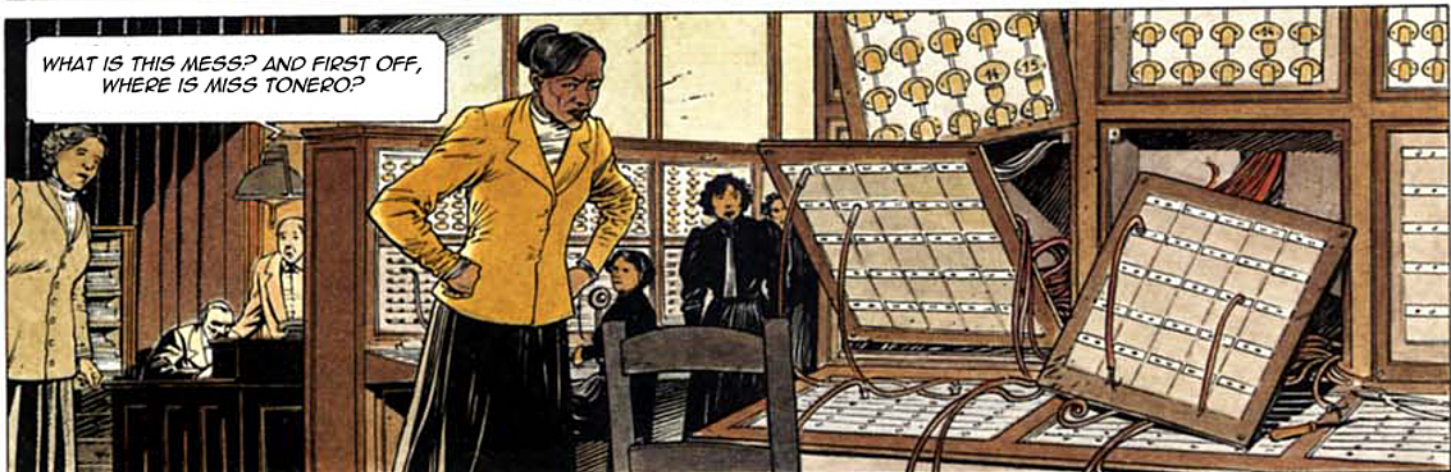


IT'S INCREDIBLE, NOT ONE OF OUR LINES IS WORKING.

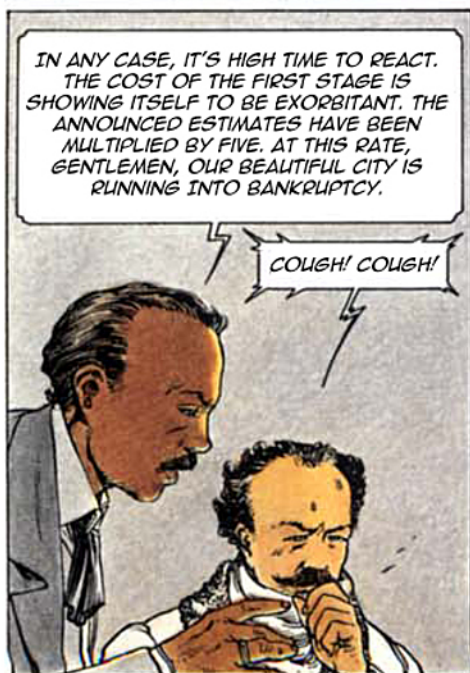
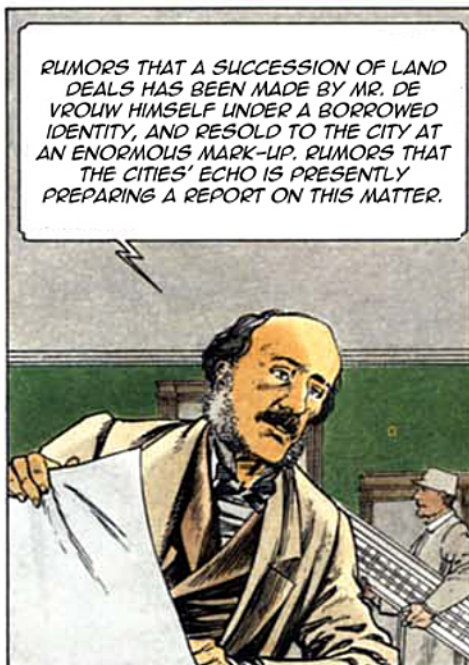
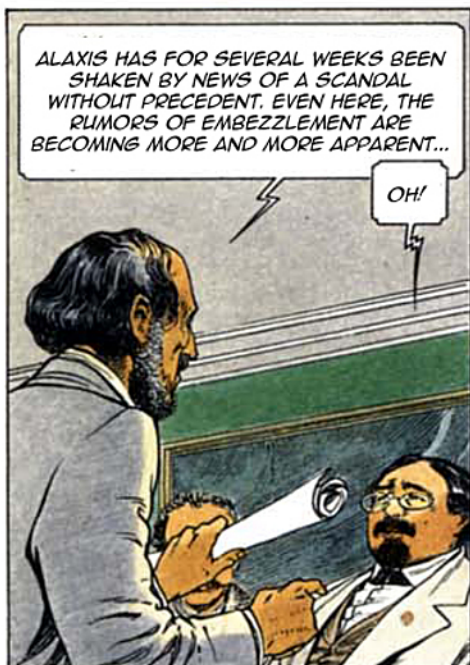
GENTLEMEN, IT'S PROVEN THAT THIS CONSTRUCTION IS ONLY BRINGING US AGGRAVATIONS.



HELLO...HELLO... GOOD GOD! THEY'D BETTER GET THESE LINES BACK UP RIGHT AWAY, OR I'M GOING TO BE UPSET!



WHAT IS THIS MESS? AND FIRST OFF, WHERE IS MISS TONERO?



5

**DOCTOR
VINCENT :**
I'm pleased!

Dr. Polydore Vincent

Dr. Polydore Vincent

Dr. Polydore Vincent

**30 years of
lancets**



Déjà 100.000 exemplaires vendus

100,000 copies sold!





IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME. TOO SCREWED UP TO ORGANIZE THINGS RIGHT... THEY KILL ME WITH THEIR CLINIC SHOWS!

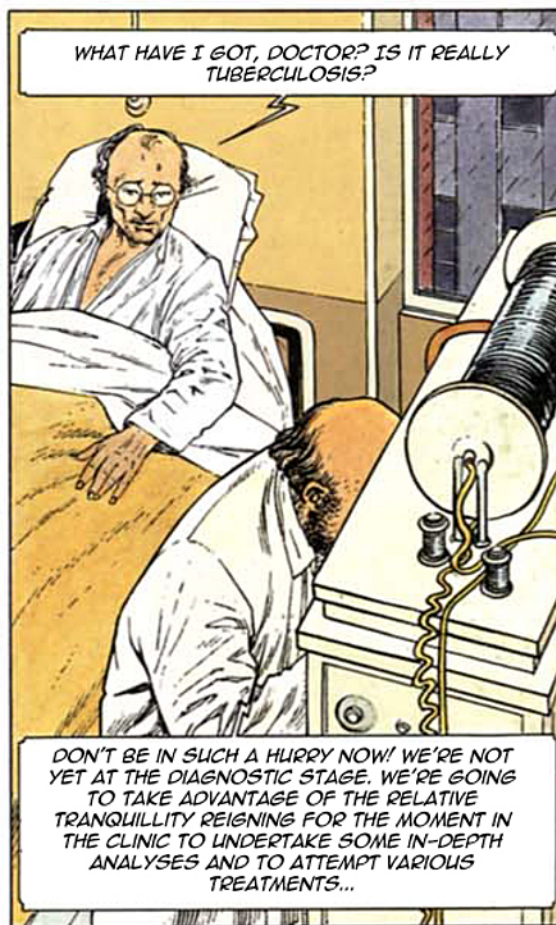


SO, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE DOING A BIT BETTER... PROFESSOR DERSENVAL NEVER STOPS SHOWERING PRAISE ON YOU. I'M VERY HAPPY THAT HE'S ENTRUSTED ME WITH YOUR CASE.

I STILL FEEL AS BAD AS EVER!

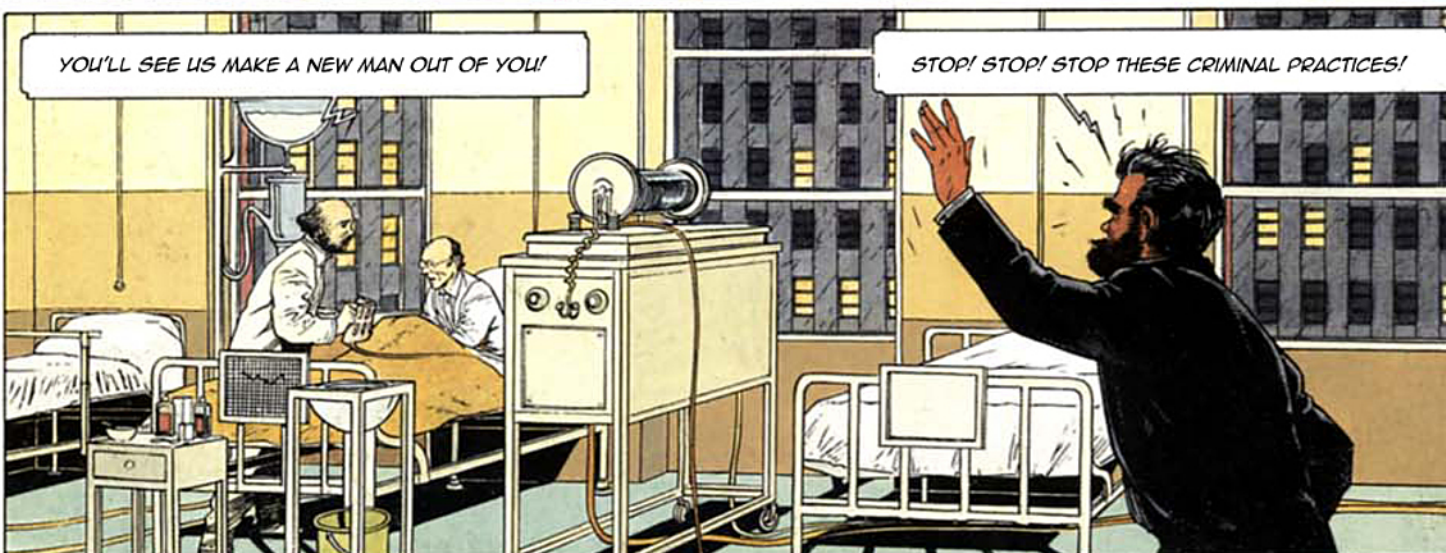


YOU ARE A MAN OF PROGRESS, THE INEVITABLE COMPLICATIONS OF THE FIRST DAYS WILL NOT SUFFICE TO DISCOURAGE A PIONEER SUCH AS YOU.



WHAT HAVE I GOT, DOCTOR? IS IT REALLY TUBERCULOSIS?

DON'T BE IN SUCH A HURRY NOW! WE'RE NOT YET AT THE DIAGNOSTIC STAGE. WE'RE GOING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE RELATIVE TRANQUILLITY REIGNING FOR THE MOMENT IN THE CLINIC TO UNDERTAKE SOME IN-DEPTH ANALYSES AND TO ATTEMPT VARIOUS TREATMENTS...



YOU'LL SEE US MAKE A NEW MAN OUT OF YOU!

STOP! STOP! STOP THESE CRIMINAL PRACTICES!

THESE ILL-CONSIDERED APPLICATIONS OF RADIUM RUN THE RISK OF HAVING CATASTROPHIC SECONDARY EFFECTS... YOU COULD CREATE IRREVERSIBLE CEREBRAL LESIONS.

BUT WHAT... WHO ALLOWED YOU IN?

I AM DOCTOR REQUET FROM THE NEO-HIPPOCRATIC DEPARTMENT. I HAVE SOME IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO ASK THE PATIENT.

LET ME WORK. THAT'S ENOUGH!

NO TREATMENT CAN BE APPLIED TO THIS POOR MAN BEFORE I HAVE A COMPLETE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS HABITS. I AM INTERESTED IN THE TERRAIN, SIR. I DON'T GO FORWARD LIKE A BULL-DOZER.



I GET IT, YOU'RE ONE OF THESE IMPOSTORS WHO DUPE PATIENTS WITH THESE LITTLE GRANULES... YOUR DELUSIONS ARE NO MORE THAN A SAD JOKE. WHAT COULD BE THE BENEFITS OF ONE-MILLIONTH OF A GRAIN?

WILL YOU BE QUIET, SIR? IGNORANCE AND DOGMATISM HAVE NO LIMITS... HISTORY WILL JUDGE YOU.

NOW, DEAR FRIEND, ANSWER ME! IN WHAT POSITION DO YOU SLEEP? ON YOUR BELLY, ON YOUR BACK, ON YOUR SIDE? DO YOU SOMETIMES DREAM ABOUT ANIMALS?

THAT'S ENOUGH. YOU'RE TIRING OUT THIS UNFORTUNATE MAN WITH TOMFOOLERY AND ARE DISTURBING MY TREATMENT. I ASK YOU TO LEAVE THIS ROOM IMMEDIATELY.

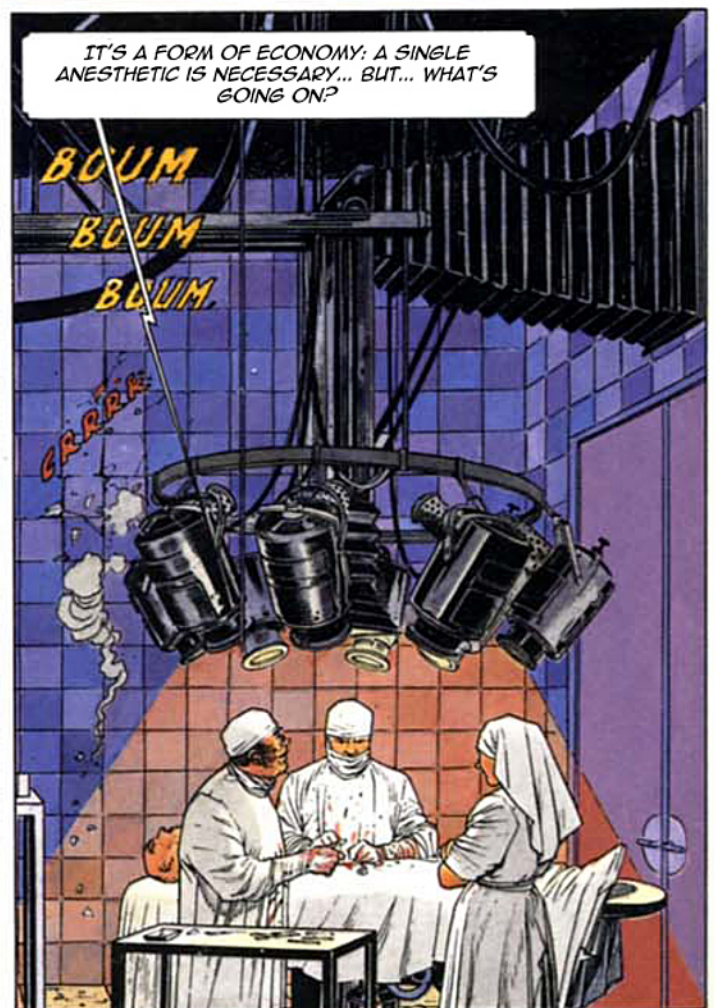
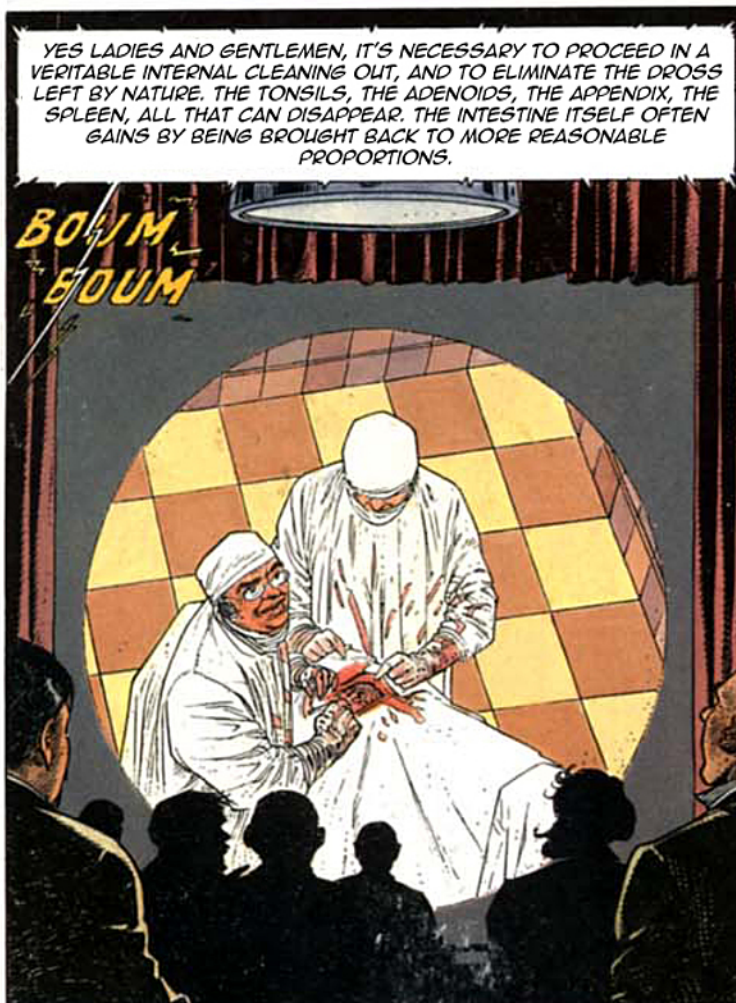


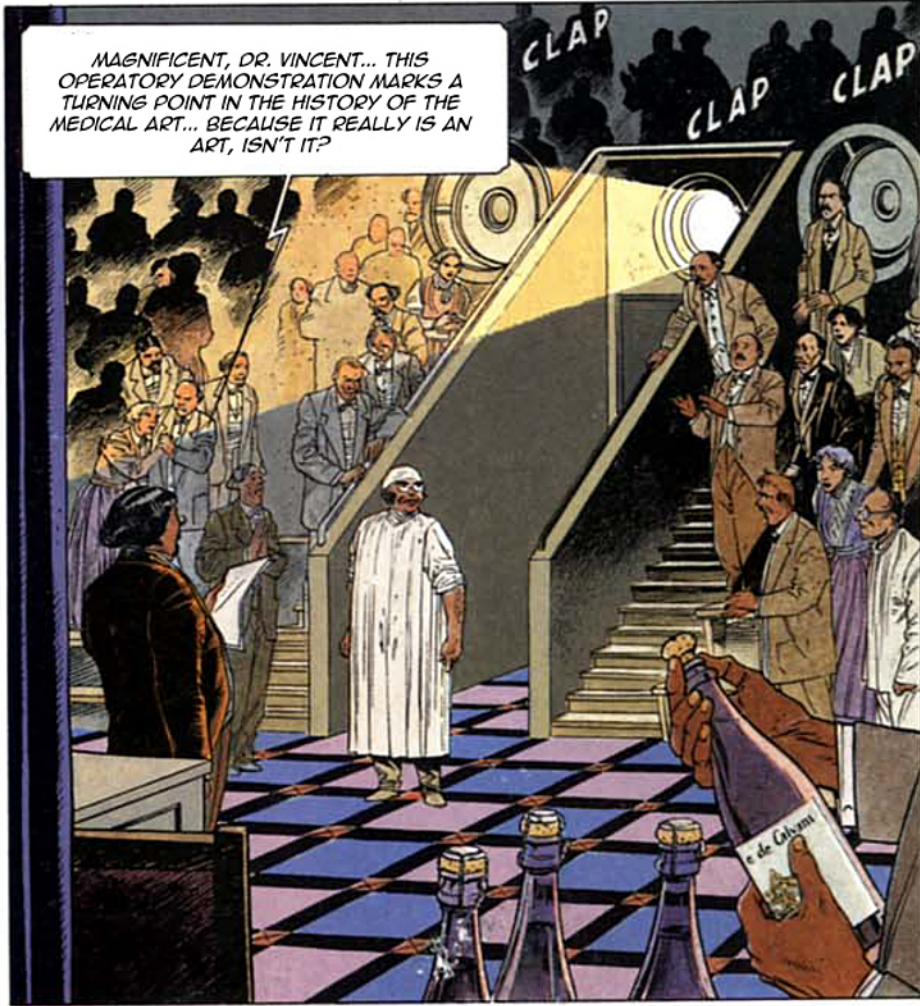
YOU SEEM TO BE IGNORANT OF THE NEW RULES. WE HENCEFORTH HAVE THE RIGHT TO FREELY PRACTICE WITHIN THE CLINIC.

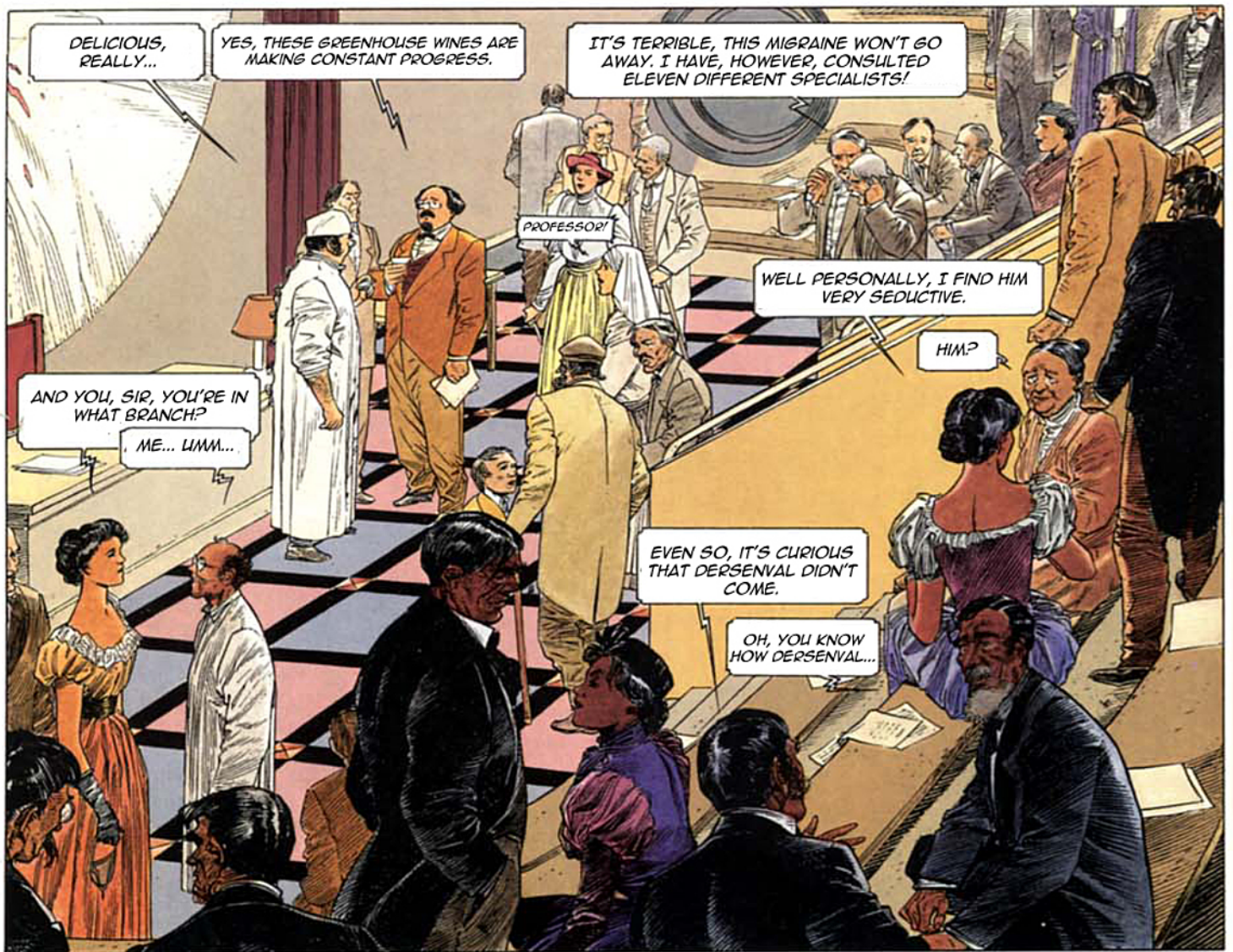
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT. I'D RATHER SMASH YOUR HEAD AGAINST THE WALL THAN ALLOW YOU TO CONTINUE.

BUTCHER!









DELICIOUS,
REALLY...

YES, THESE GREENHOUSE WINES ARE
MAKING CONSTANT PROGRESS.

IT'S TERRIBLE, THIS MIGRAINE WON'T GO
AWAY. I HAVE, HOWEVER, CONSULTED
ELEVEN DIFFERENT SPECIALISTS!

PROFESSOR!

WELL PERSONALLY, I FIND HIM
VERY SEDUCTIVE.

HIM?

AND YOU, SIR, YOU'RE IN
WHAT BRANCH?

ME... UMM...

EVEN SO, IT'S CURIOUS
THAT DERSEVAL DIDN'T
COME.

OH, YOU KNOW
HOW DERSEVAL...



SO, DO YOU REALLY THINK I SHOULD
BUY THIS LAND?

IN YOUR PLACE, I WOULDN'T
HESITATE A SECOND.

PROFESSOR!

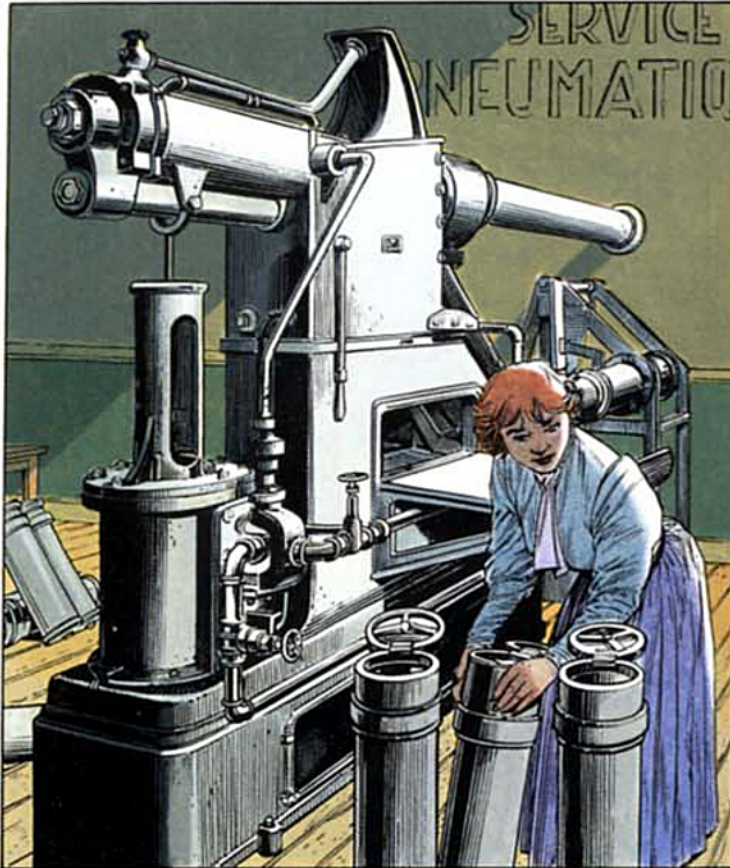


PROFESSOR, THE PATIENT...HE...

FINISH SEWING HIM UP, BY THE
DEVIL! CAN'T YOU SEE I'M BUSY.

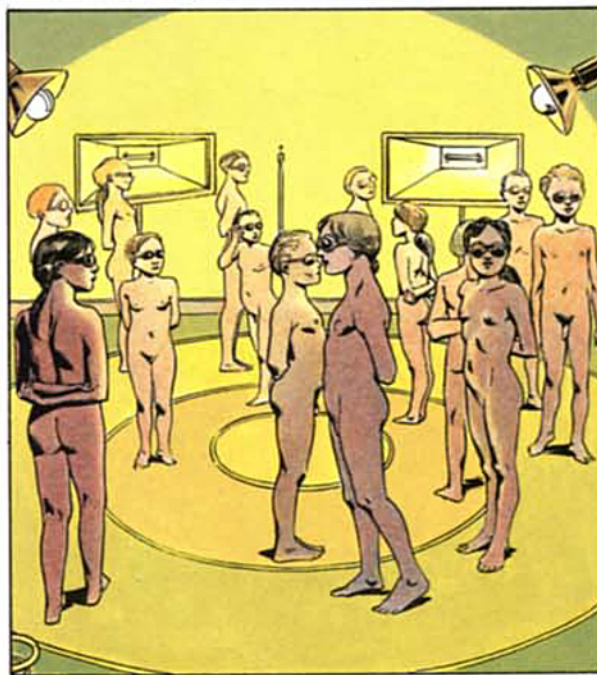
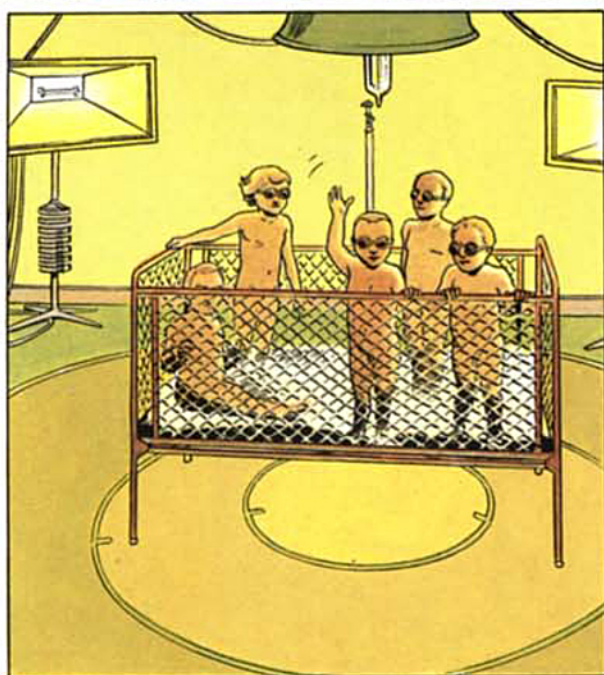
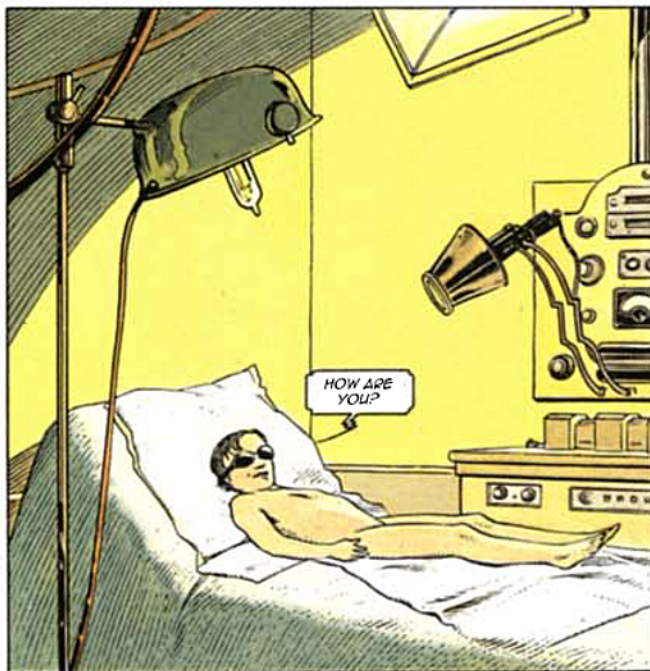


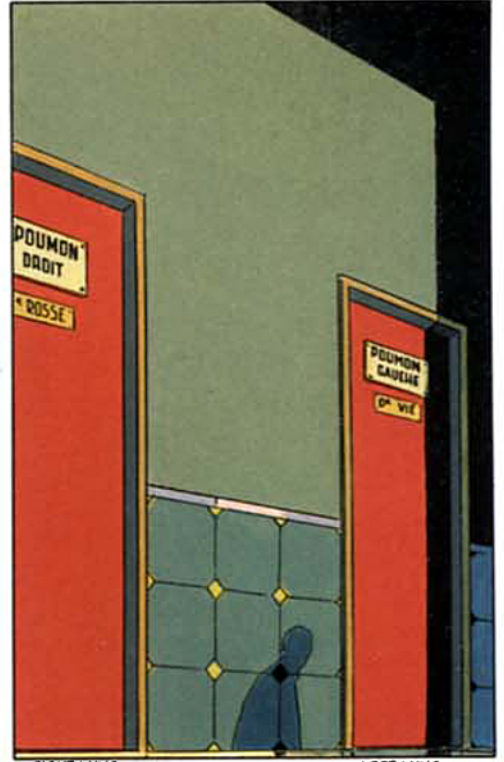
WHEN WILL THE SURGICAL PROFESSION
BE RECOGNIZED AT ITS JUST WORTH
INSTEAD OF PERSECUTING US WITH THE
TASKS OF A SEAMSTRESS?



ATTENTION: PROF. DERSENVAL

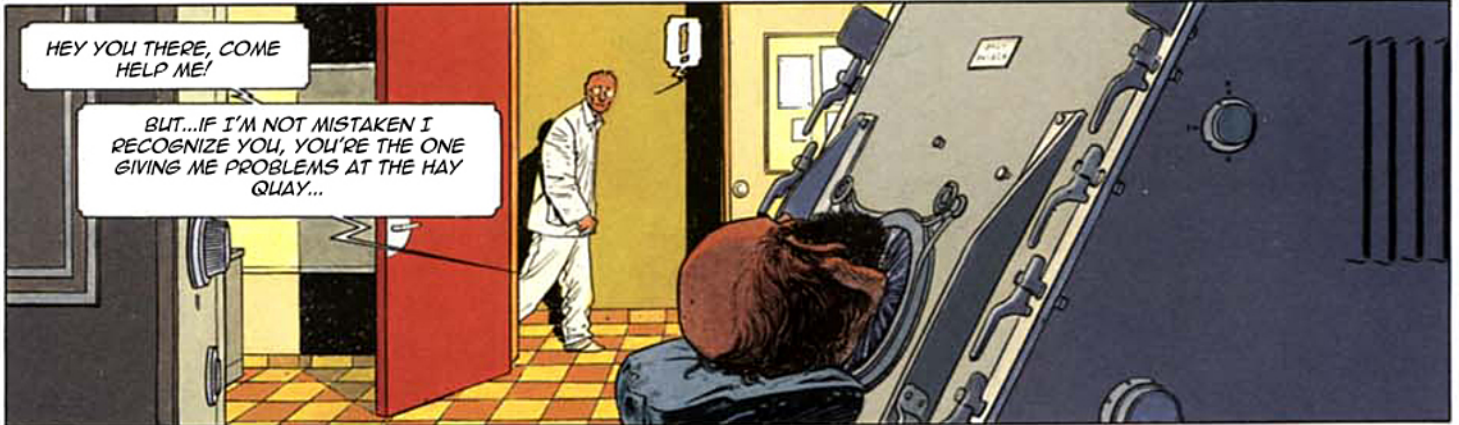






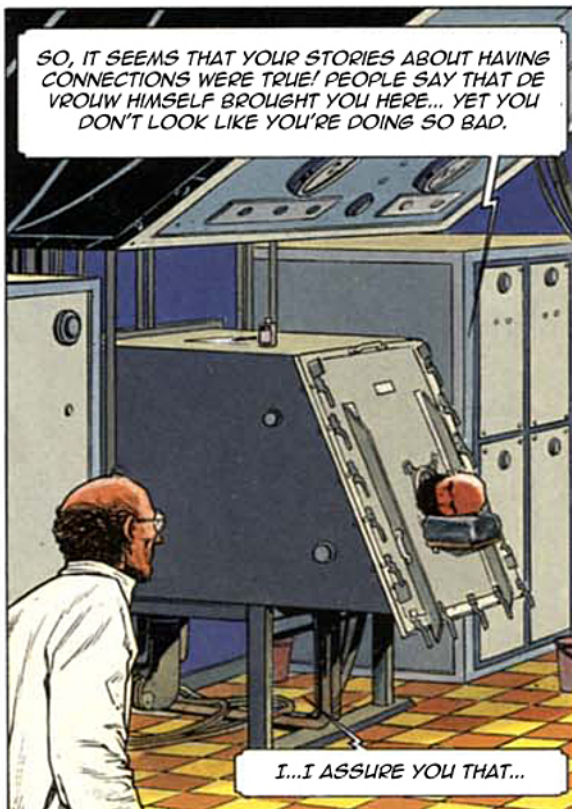
RIGHT LUNG

LEFT LUNG



HEY YOU THERE, COME
HELP ME!

BUT...IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN I
RECOGNIZE YOU, YOU'RE THE ONE
GIVING ME PROBLEMS AT THE HAY
QUAY...



SO, IT SEEMS THAT YOUR STORIES ABOUT HAVING
CONNECTIONS WERE TRUE! PEOPLE SAY THAT DE
VROUW HIMSELF BROUGHT YOU HERE... YET YOU
DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU'RE DOING SO BAD.

I...I ASSURE YOU THAT...



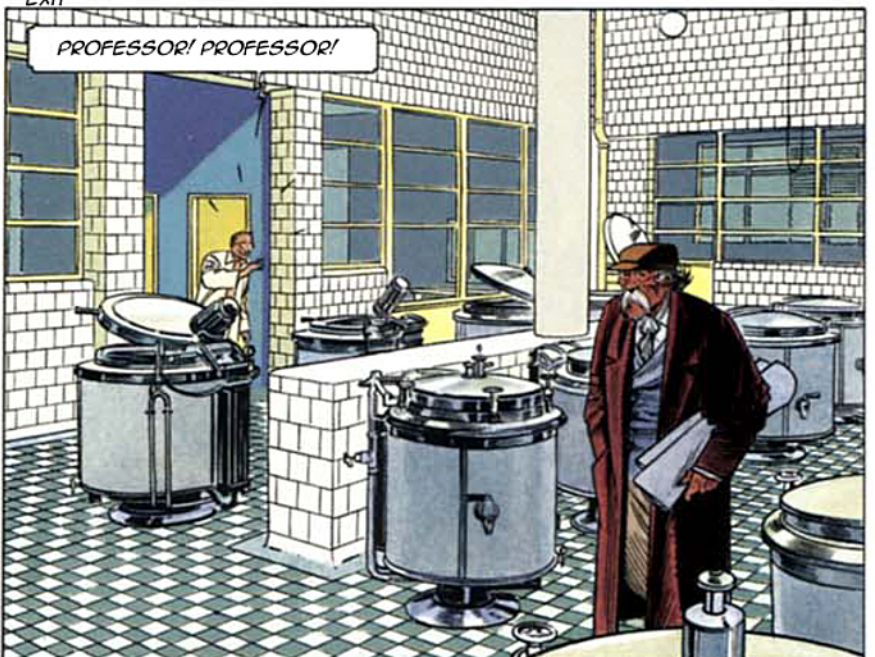
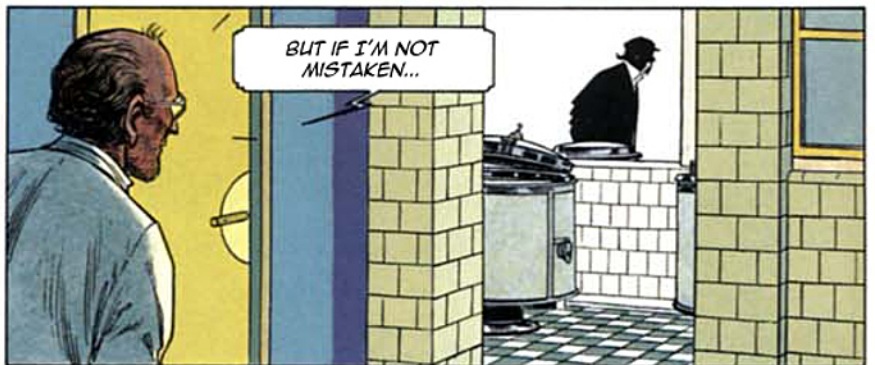
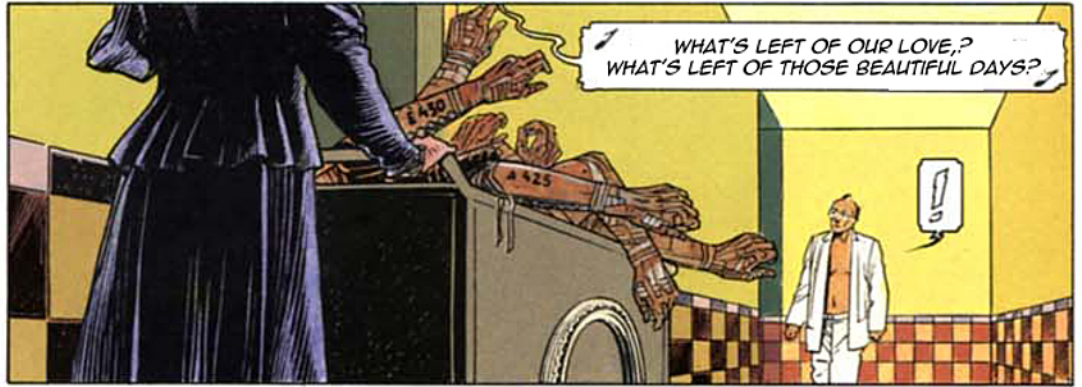
COME, YOU'RE GOING
TO RID ME OF ALL THIS
GADGETRY! I AM
REALLY FED UP WITH
BEING STUCK INSIDE
HERE.

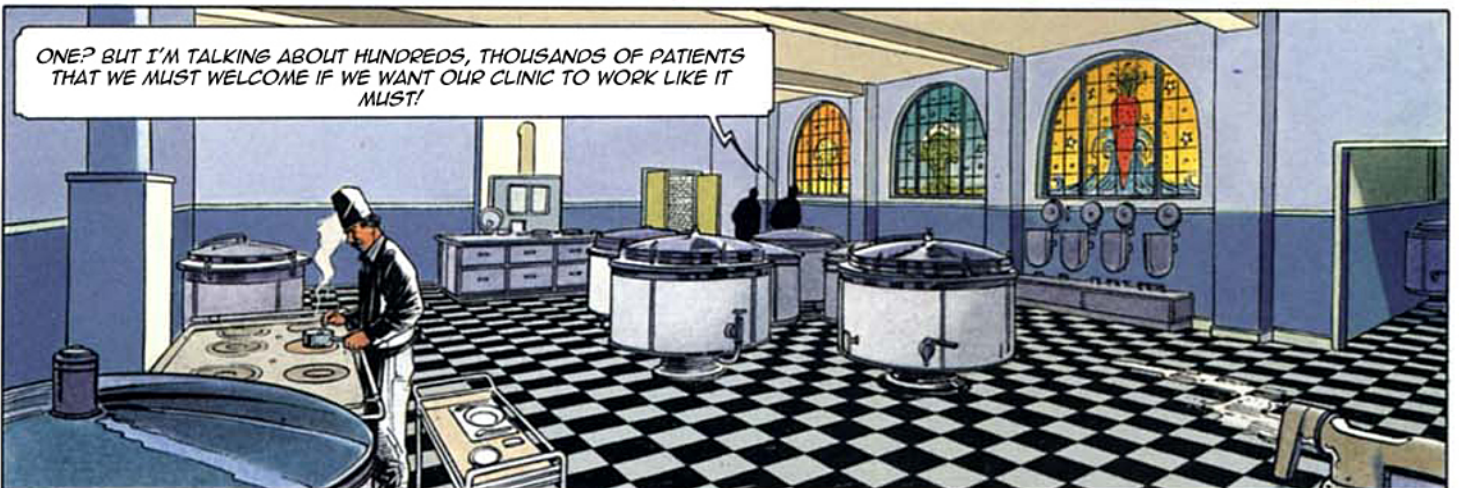
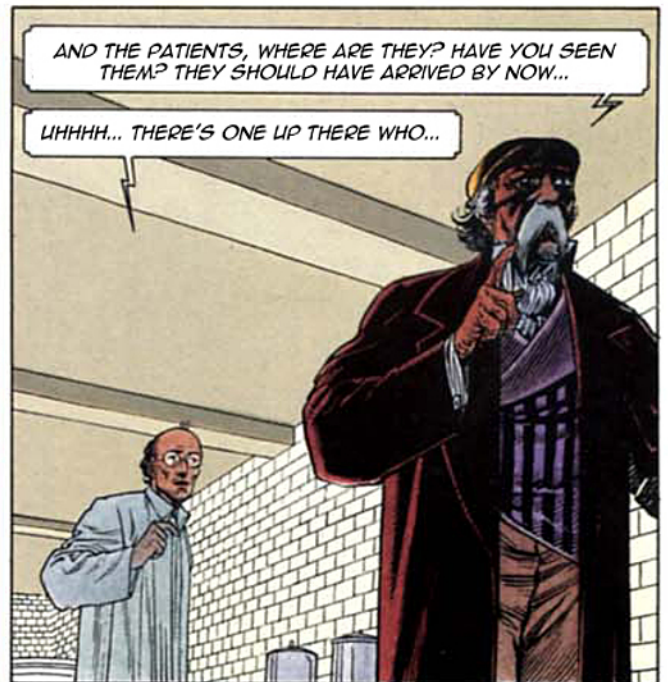
UHHH... I CAN'T MESS
WITH THAT... I DON'T
UNDERSTAND THESE
MACHINES... I'D HAVE
TO FIND A DOCTOR...



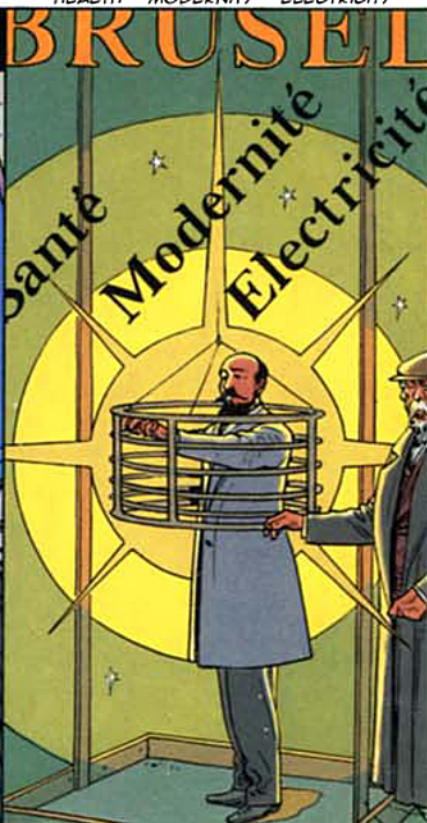
A DOCTOR, THAT'S A GOOD ONE! THEY'VE LEFT ME
LIKE THIS SINCE THIS MORNING.

I... I'M GOING TO SEE IF
THERE'S SOMEONE...

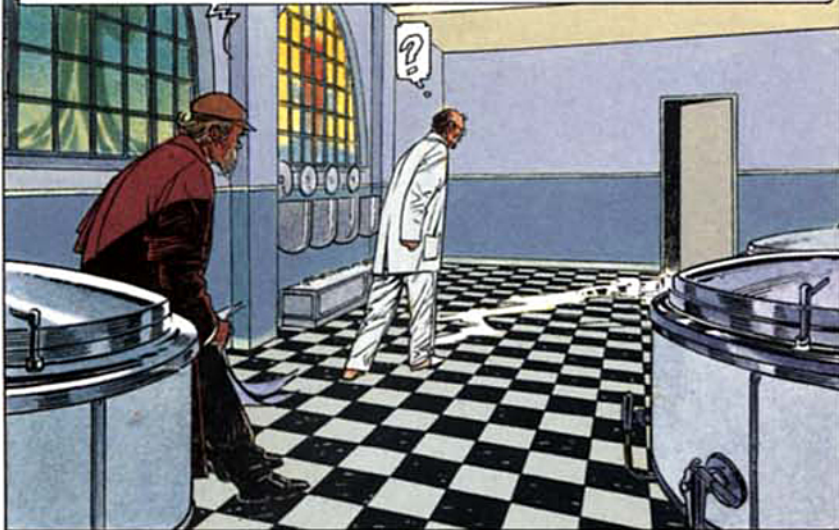




DOING WELL? THAT'S EASILY SAID. HEALTH MODERNITY ELECTRICITY



I'M SURE THE PATIENTS ARE GOING TO ARRIVE. MAYBE THEY'RE ALREADY HERE, COMING FROM XHYSTOS, FROM URBICANDE, OR FROM CERNOVADA...



ONE SOLUTION WOULD BE TO PROPOSE TO THE WORKERS THAT THEY BE PAID IN TREATMENTS... YES, THAT WOULD BE AN IDEA TO EXPLORE.

GOOD LORD, NOW WHAT HAVE THEY DONE?



THEY HAVEN'T EVEN TAKEN THE TIME TO GET RID OF THEM!



IT'S TINA WHO'S RIGHT: THEY'VE ALL GONE MAD!

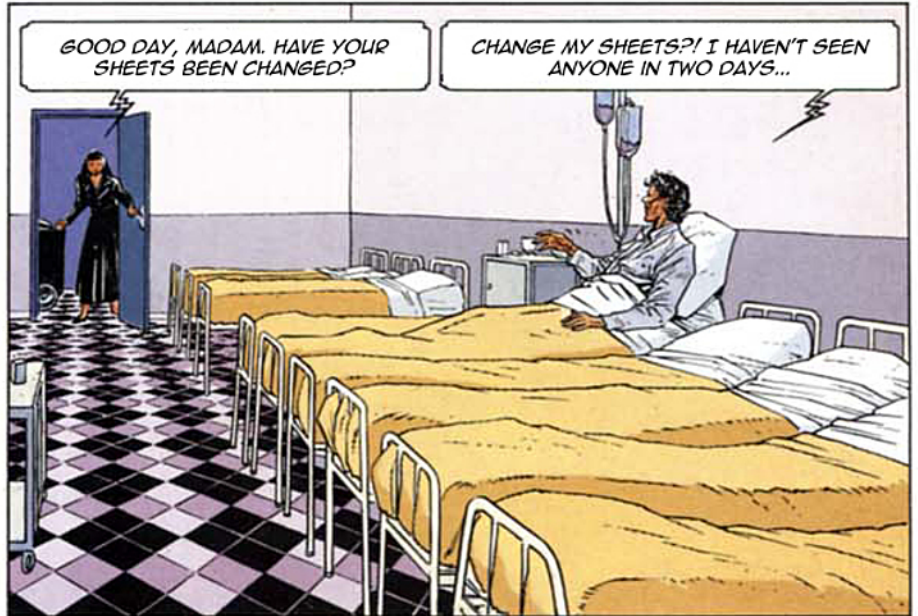




EVEN IF I HAVE TO EXPLORE THIS CLINIC ROOM BY ROOM, I'LL FIND HIM AGAIN.



AH, THERE'S SOMEBODY!



GOOD DAY, MADAM. HAVE YOUR SHEETS BEEN CHANGED?

CHANGE MY SHEETS?! I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYONE IN TWO DAYS...



VERY WELL, VERY WELL, IT'LL BE TAKEN CARE OF RIGHT AWAY.

THANK YOU, MISS. YOU AT LEAST ARE QUITE DEVOTED!

LINENS



TO HELL WITH THE CART!



TINA!

CONSTANT!

COUGH, COUGH

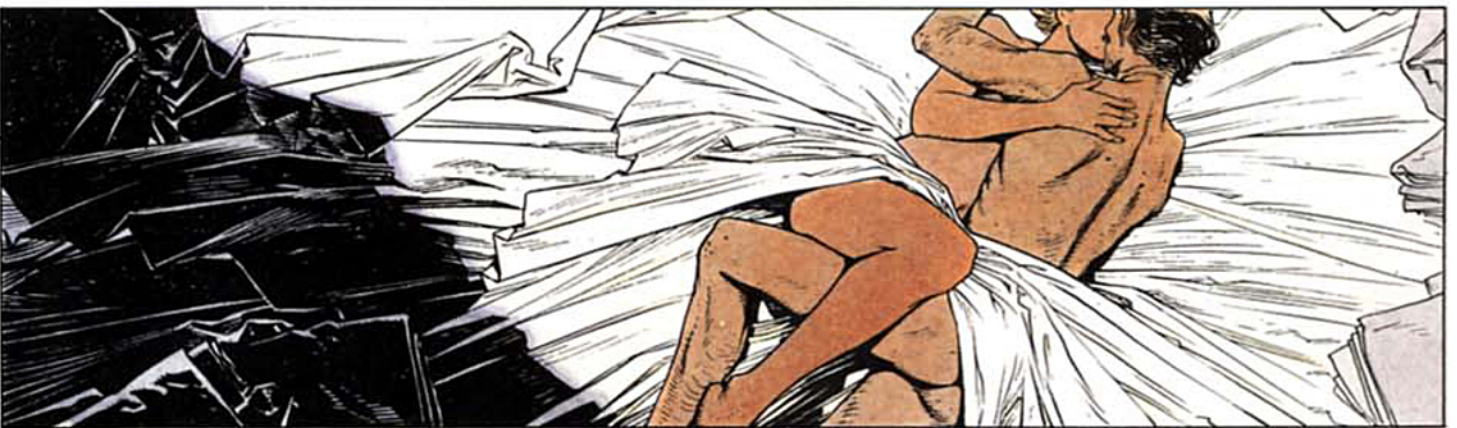


BUT...



TINA!

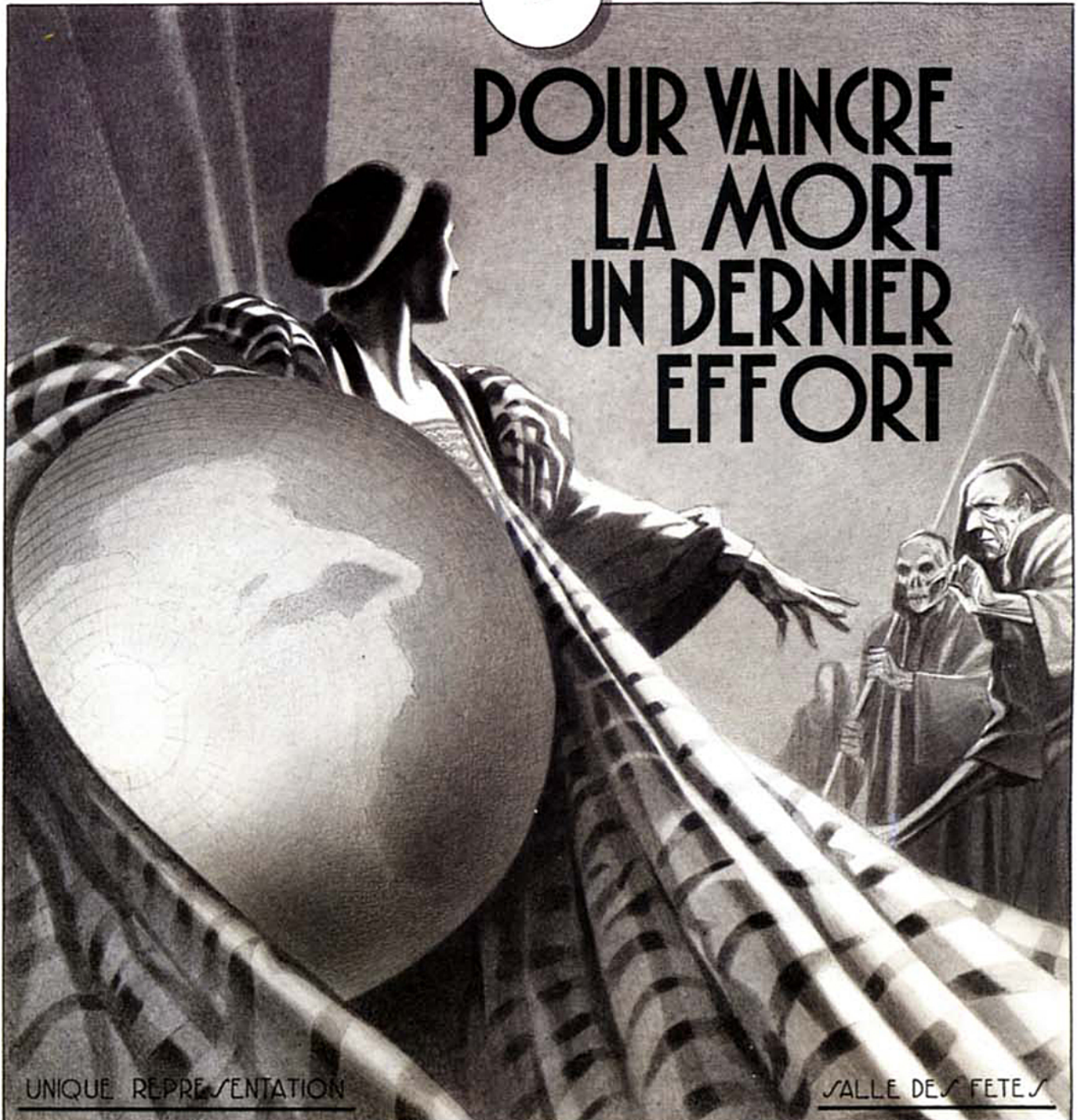




A Final Effort To Conquer Death

6

POUR VAINCRE
LA MORT
UN DERNIER
EFFORT



UNIQUE REPRESENTATION

SALLE DES FÊTES

A single showing

In the Ballroom



I'M HERE, MR. SPEECKAERT, I'M HERE!



DR. VINCENT, I'M SORRY THAT YOUR ENTRY INTO THE ECHEVINAL COUNCIL IS TAKING PLACE ON SUCH A SAD DAY...



THE SUDDEN DEATH OF OUR DEAR CITY MANAGER, THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MR. DE VROUW...

WHO WOULD EVER HAVE THOUGHT IT?



BE QUIET, DEWOLF, DON'T INTERRUPT ME! THE FAILURE OF THE CITIES' FUNDS, THE INDICTMENT OF ALDERMAN SNUL, ALL THESE ELEMENTS ARE MAKING THE RESOLUTION OF OUR PROBLEMS MORE DIFFICULT.



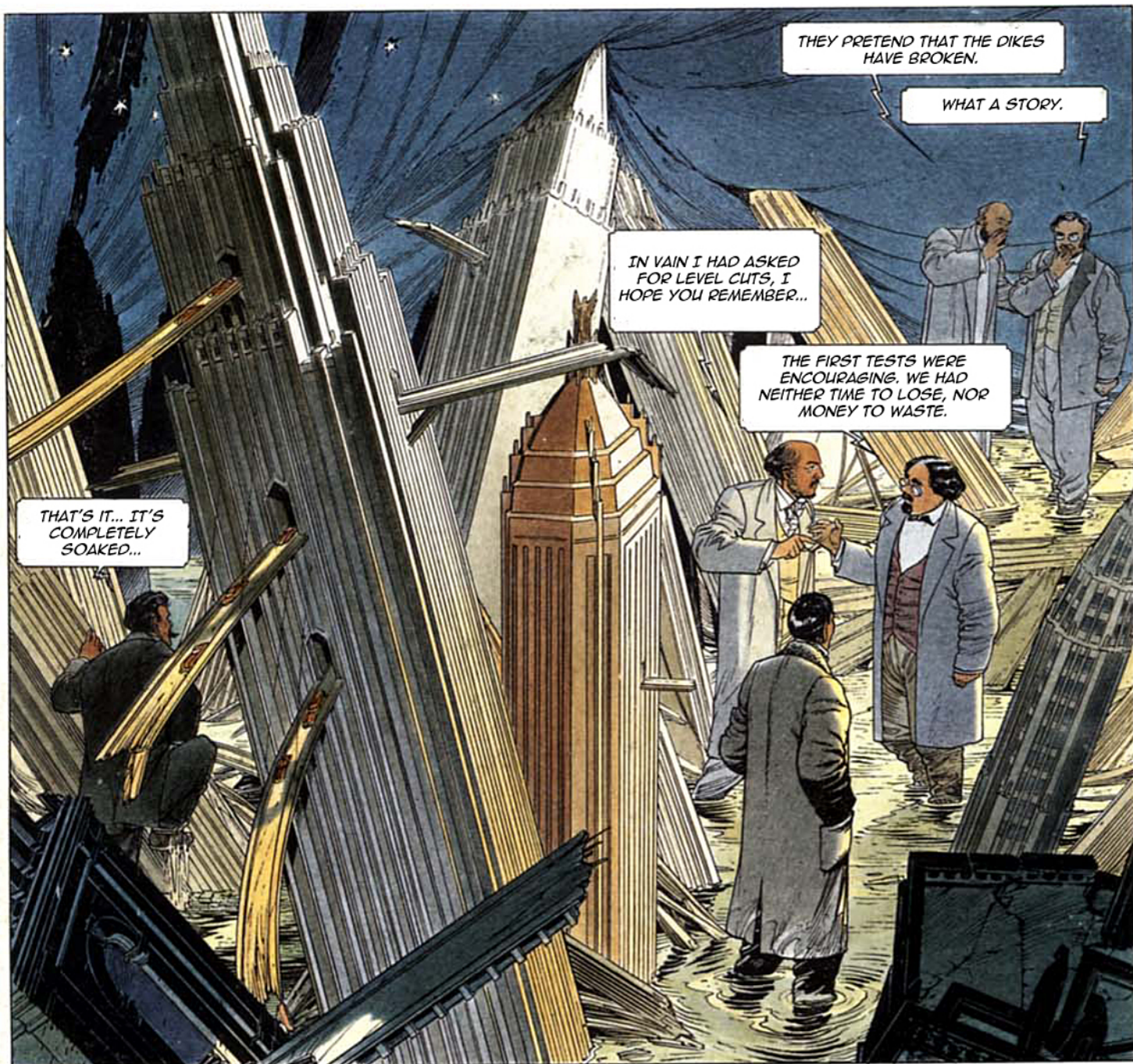
BRÜSEL IS FOR THE MOMENT IN A HORRIBLE STATE. EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF A BOMBARDMENT, ONE WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY IMAGINING A CITY PUT IN A SIMILAR STATE... WE'RE BEING LAUGHED AT FROM ONE END OF THE CONTINENT TO THE OTHER...



AS FOR THE FLOODING, IT'S ALL THE MORE WORRISOME. NOT AN HOUR GOES BY WITHOUT US BEING TOLD OF A NEW CATASTROPHE.

GOOD GOD, MY SHOE HAS A HOLE!

I TOLD YOU, GENTLEMEN, I TOLD YOU!



THEY PRETEND THAT THE DIKES HAVE BROKEN.

WHAT A STORY.

IN VAIN I HAD ASKED FOR LEVEL CUTS, I HOPE YOU REMEMBER...

THE FIRST TESTS WERE ENCOURAGING. WE HAD NEITHER TIME TO LOSE, NOR MONEY TO WASTE.

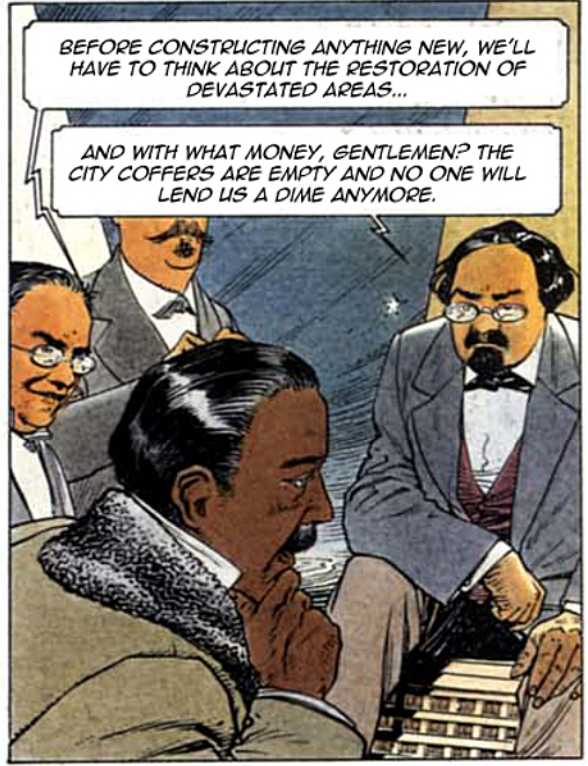
THAT'S IT... IT'S COMPLETELY SOAKED...

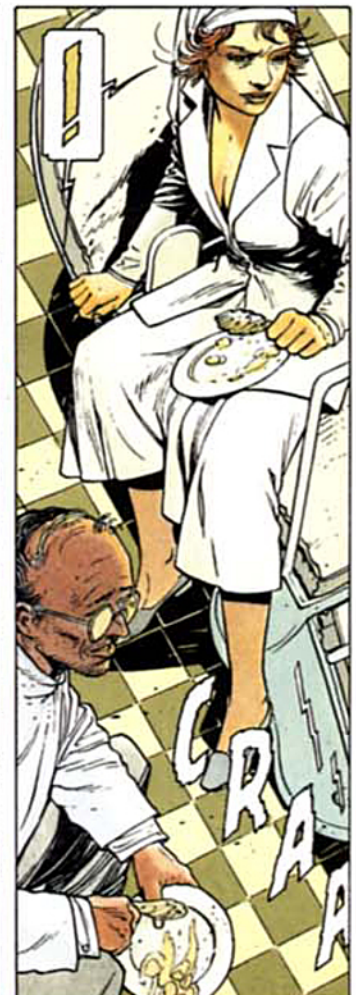
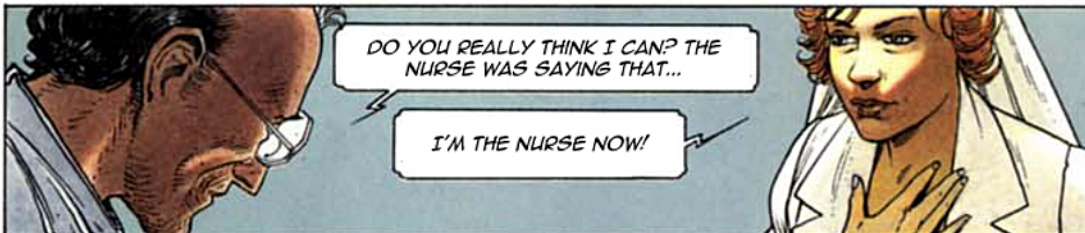
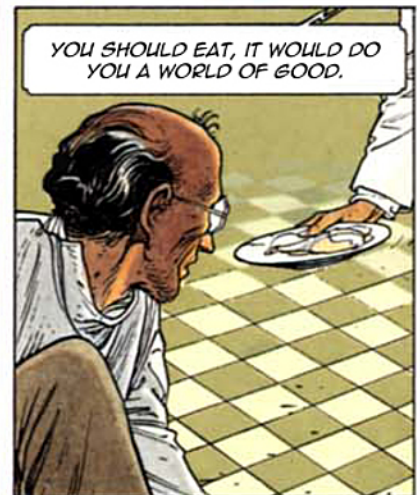
WE RAN OVER ALL THAT IN THE BEGINNING. BRÜSEL'S SUB-STRATUM IS A REAL SPONGE, INCAPABLE OF SUPPORTING THE WEIGHT OF BUILDINGS LIKE THOSE...

GENTLEMEN, PLEASE, LET'S NOT BRING THESE OLD QUARRELS BACK UP!

ONE THING IS SURE: THE PRESENT SITUATION CAN'T GO ON. WE NEED A SOLUTION.

WHATEVER IT MAY BE.









DOCTOR! DOCTOR!

MY GELCAPS! GIVE ME MY GELCAPS!

WAIT YOUR TURN, I WAS HERE WELL AHEAD OF YOU!

IS IT VON SCHOLTZ?

NO, IT'S NOT HIM...IT MUST BE THE NEW ONE.



SORRY, I'M NOT A DOCTOR... I'M A PATIENT... EXACTLY... UHHH... LIKE YOU.



THAT'S IT, THAT'S IT!

THEY REALLY TAKE US FOR IDIOTS.

I KNOW THAT NURSE, SHE'S A MEAN ONE.

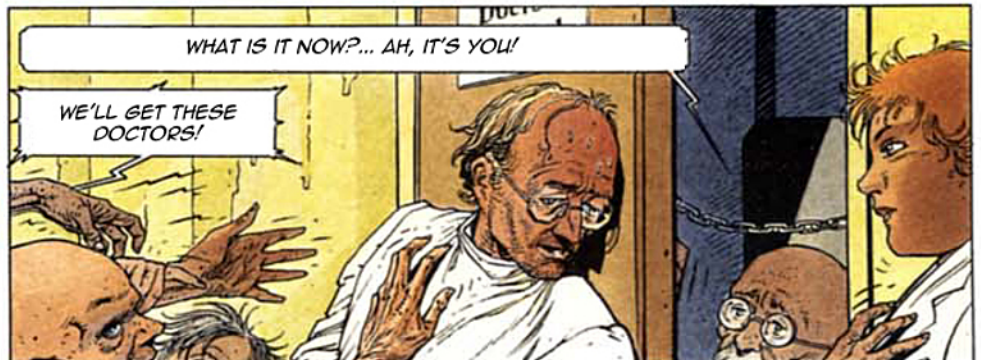
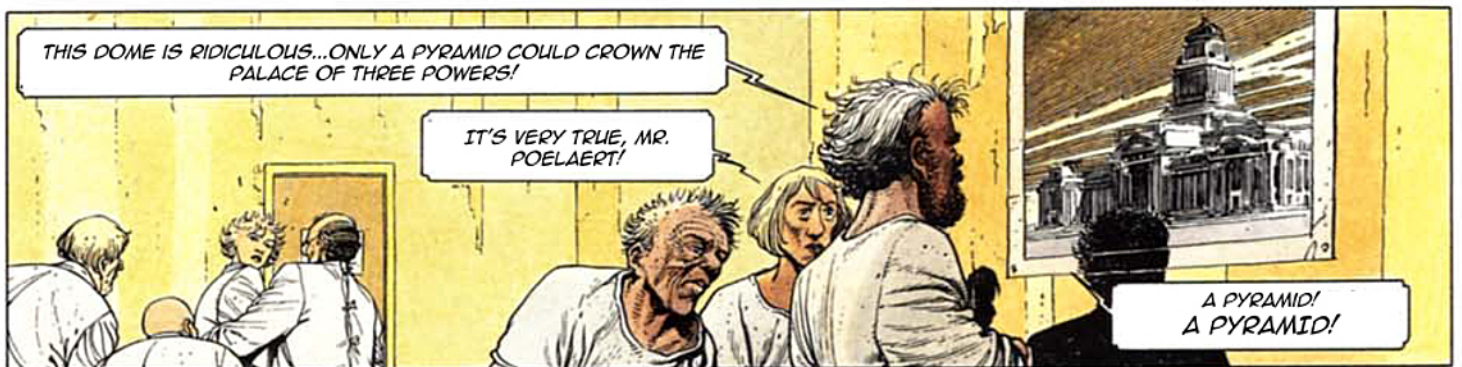
EACH TIME IT'S THE SAME THING.



MY SHOT, IT'S TIME FOR MY SHOT!

BUT YOU DON'T HAVE A SHOT ANYMORE, MR. GEORGES. YOU KNOW THAT THEY HAVE GONE OVER TO SUPPOSITORIES.

I HAD FORGOTTEN AGAIN. GETTING OLD IS SUCH A BITCH!





THANK YOU, SIR, YOU GOT US
OUT OF A TIGHT SPOT.



*Eeeeeeeeeeeeeehhh...
Eeeeeeeeeeeeeehhh...*



PROFESSOR! PROFESSOR!



BUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM,
MR. WAPPENDORF?

AN UNLUCKY ERROR... AN
INVERSION OF THE CIRCUITS IN
THE NEW DERSENVALIZATOR, I
DON'T KNOW HOW THAT COULD
HAVE HAPPENED...



BASTARDS, YOU'RE NOT MISSING
OUT ON ANYTHING BY WAITING!

EXECUTIONERS!
TORTURERS!

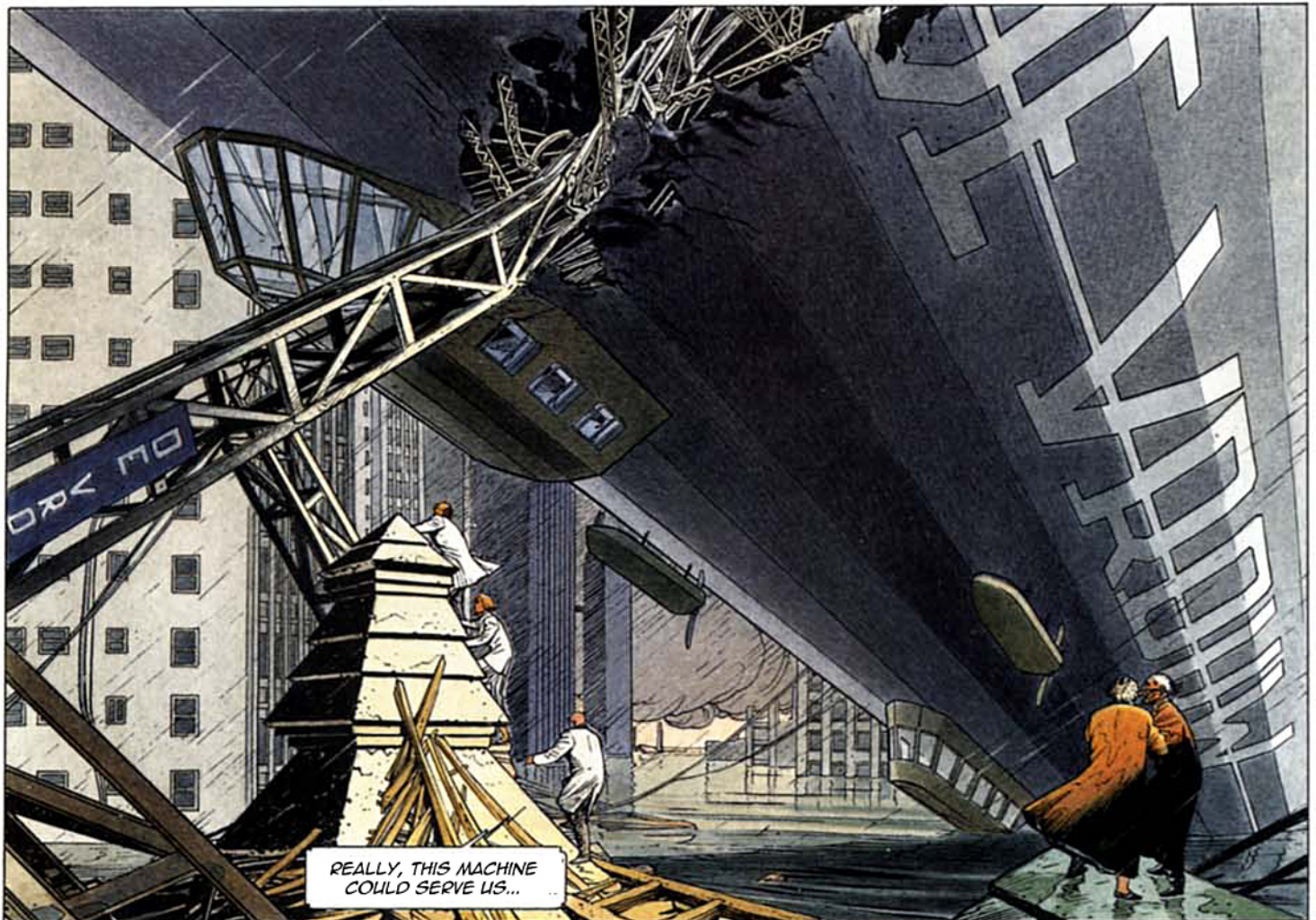
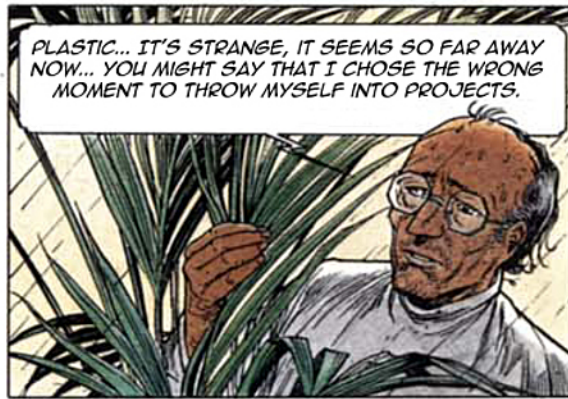
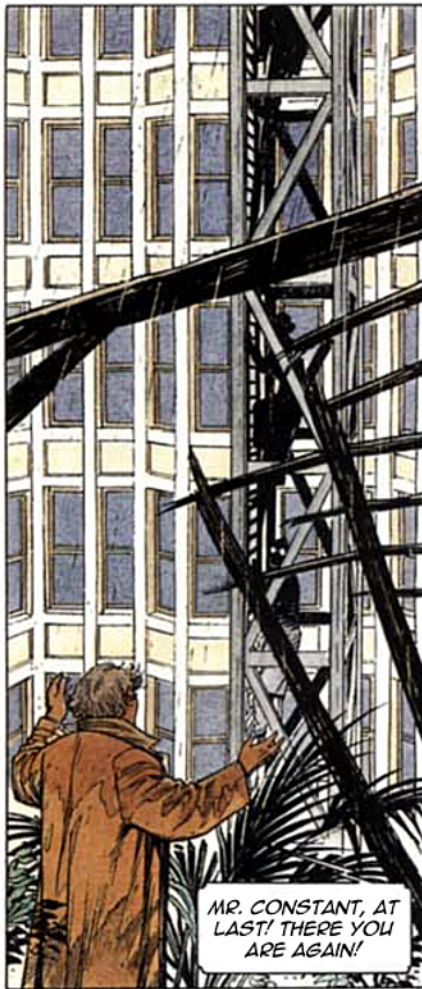
THERE IT GOES,
IT'S CRACKING!

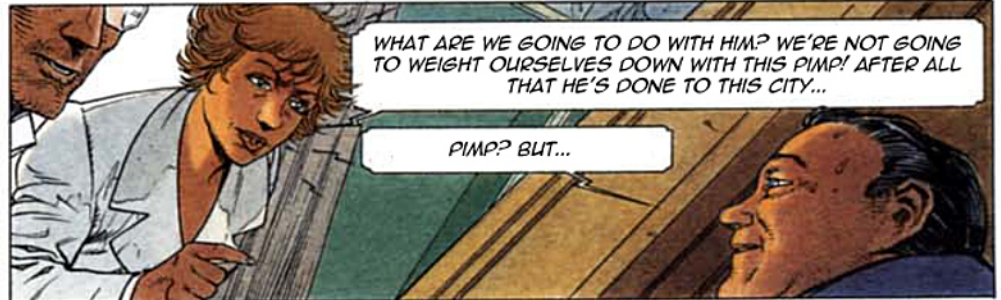


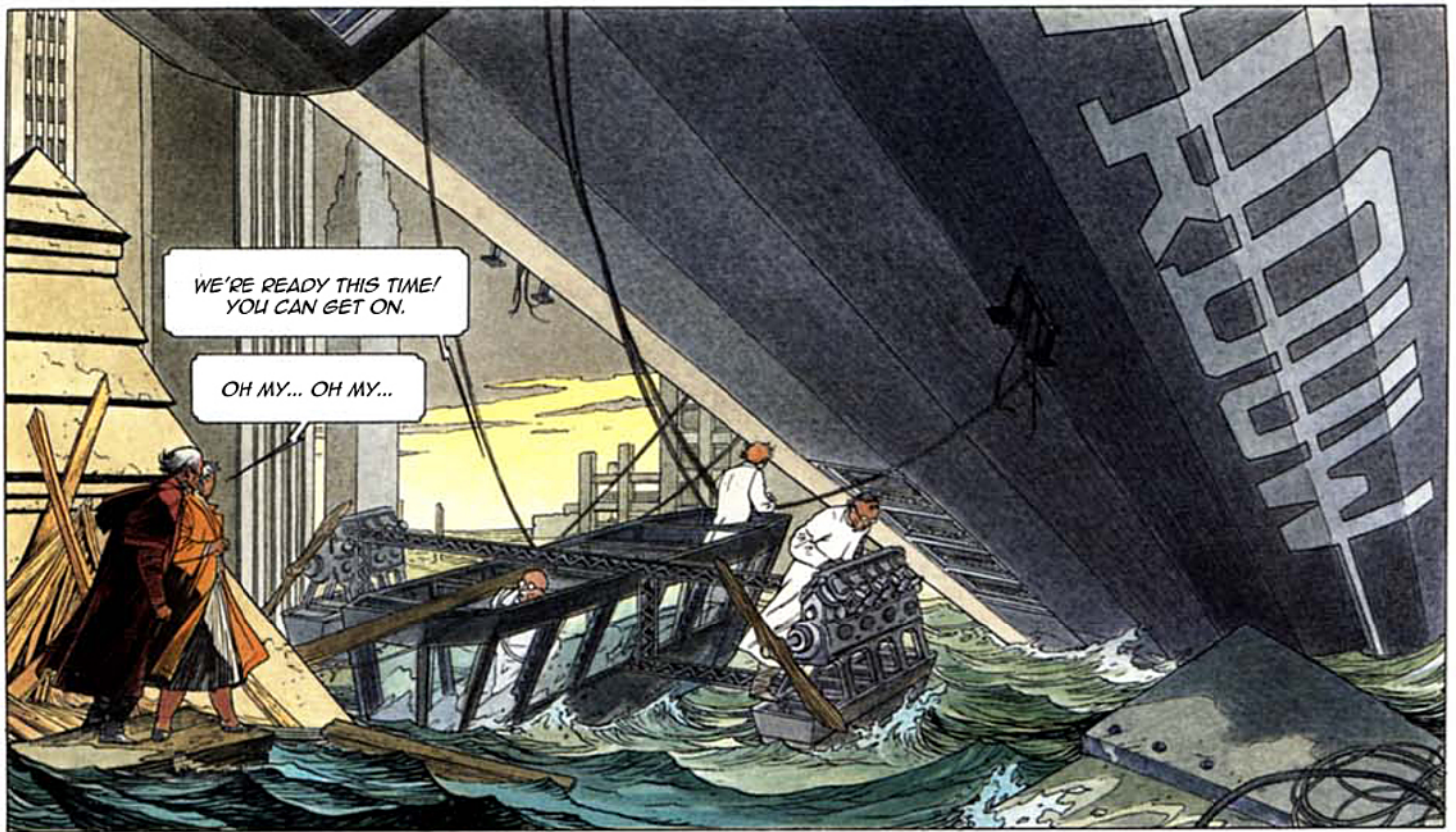
WE HAVE TO GET
OUT OF HERE. THE
SITUATION IS
BECOMING
UNTENABLE.











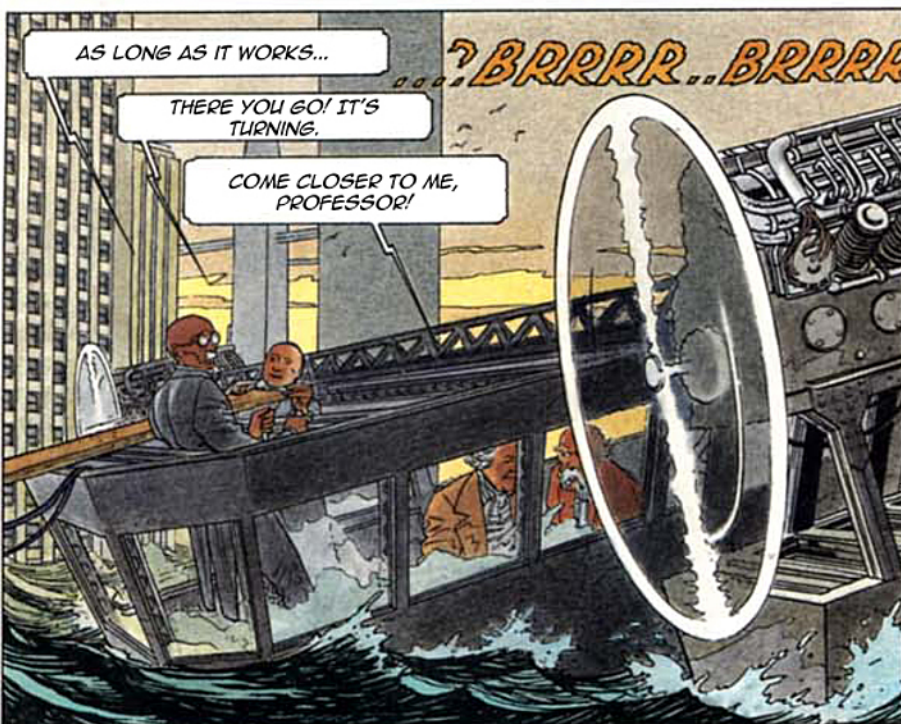
WE'RE READY THIS TIME!
YOU CAN GET ON.

OH MY... OH MY...



THIS WAY, PROFESSOR!

THANK YOU,
DOCTOR!



AS LONG AS IT WORKS...

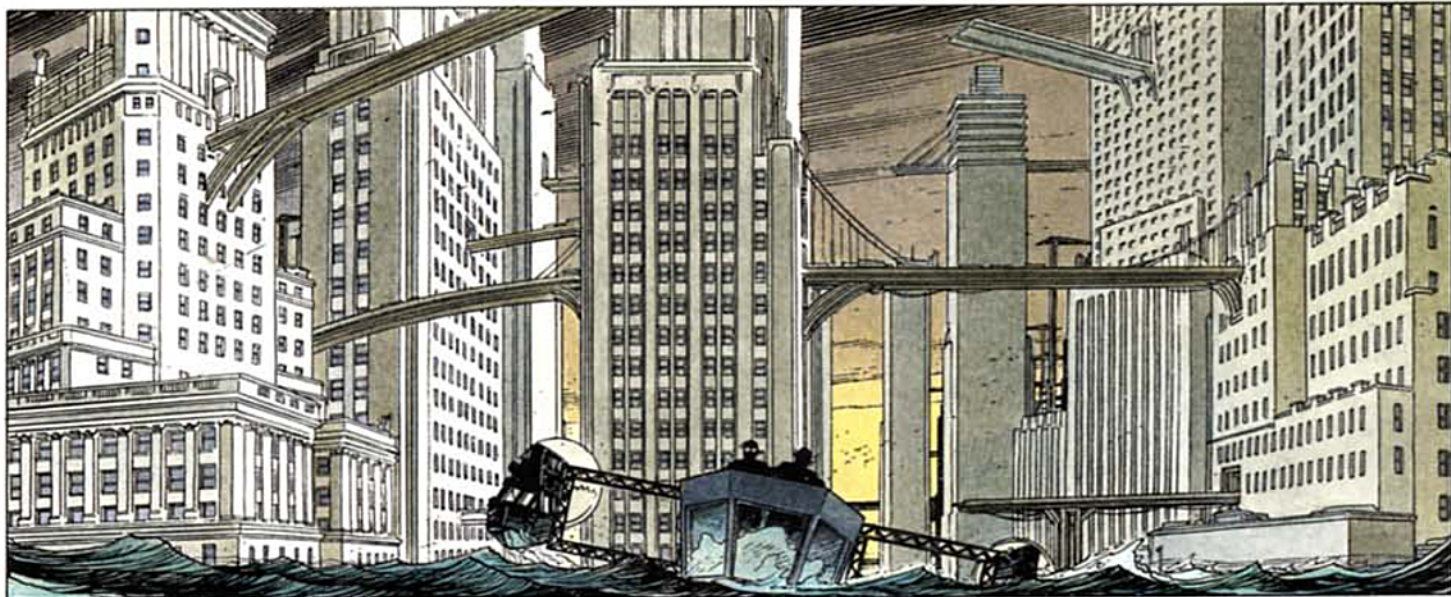
THERE YOU GO! IT'S
TURNING.

COME CLOSER TO ME,
PROFESSOR!



LET LOOSE THE ROPES!

AND WE'RE OFF! THANK GOD!



I'M GOING TO MAKE A COMEBACK, AXEL. I'VE SEEN OTHERS DO IT, YOU KNOW! IT'S NOT REALLY THAT WE SET OUR SIGHTS TOO HIGH. IT'S MOSTLY THAT THE POPULATION WASN'T UP TO IT...

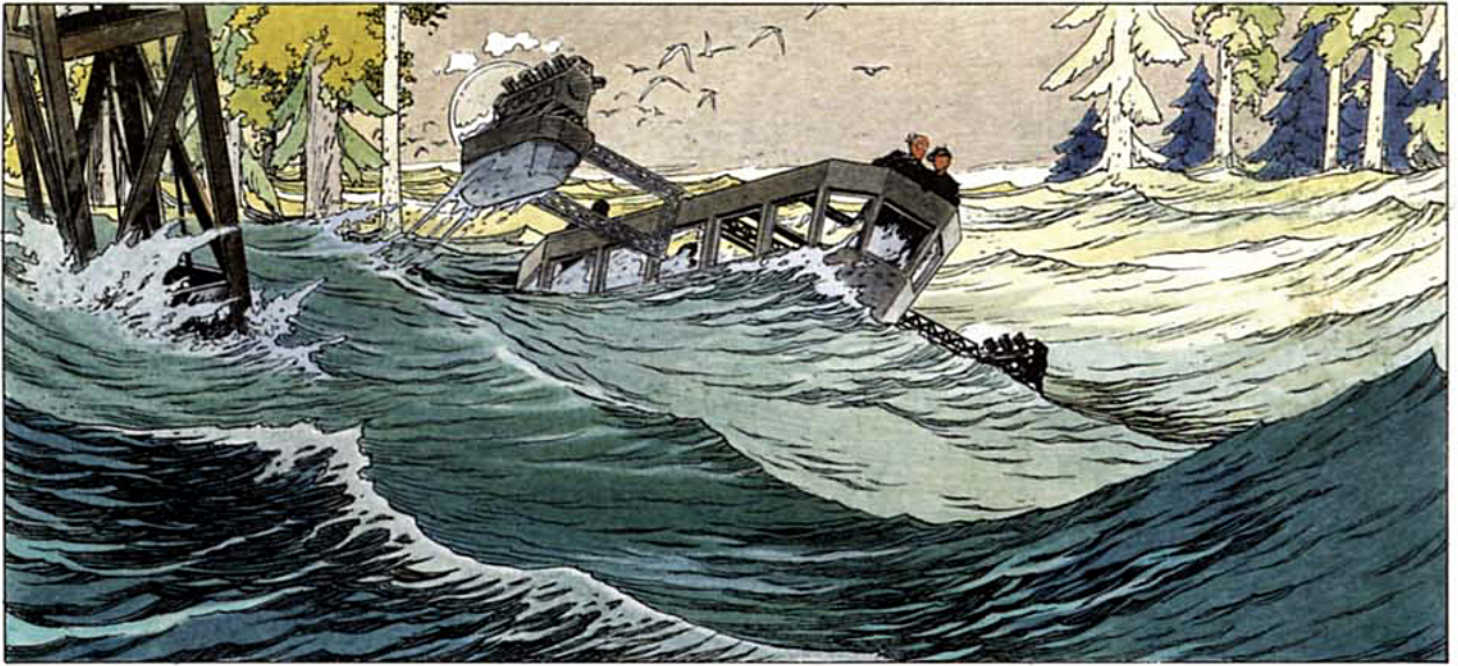
AND THE PATIENTS?

THEY'RE THERE, PROFESSOR... DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! REST A BIT LONGER!

AH, ALL THE SAME... I JUST KNEW IT...

I SHOULD HAVE PROPOSED MY SERVICES TO PÄHRY. BRÿSEL IS ONLY A TOWN. HOW DO YOU FIGURE THAT IT COULD BECOME THE CAPITAL OF THE OBSCURE CITIES?

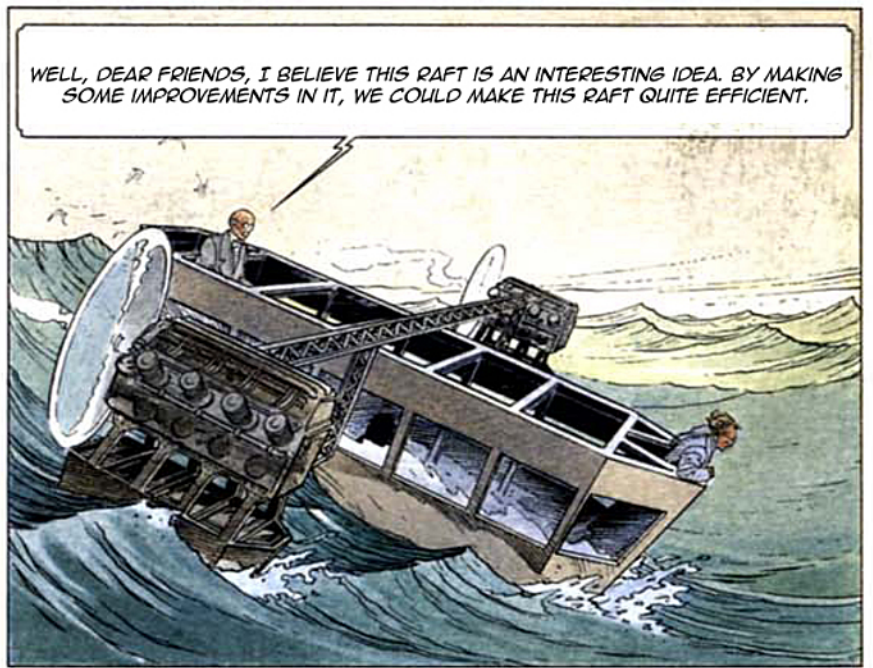




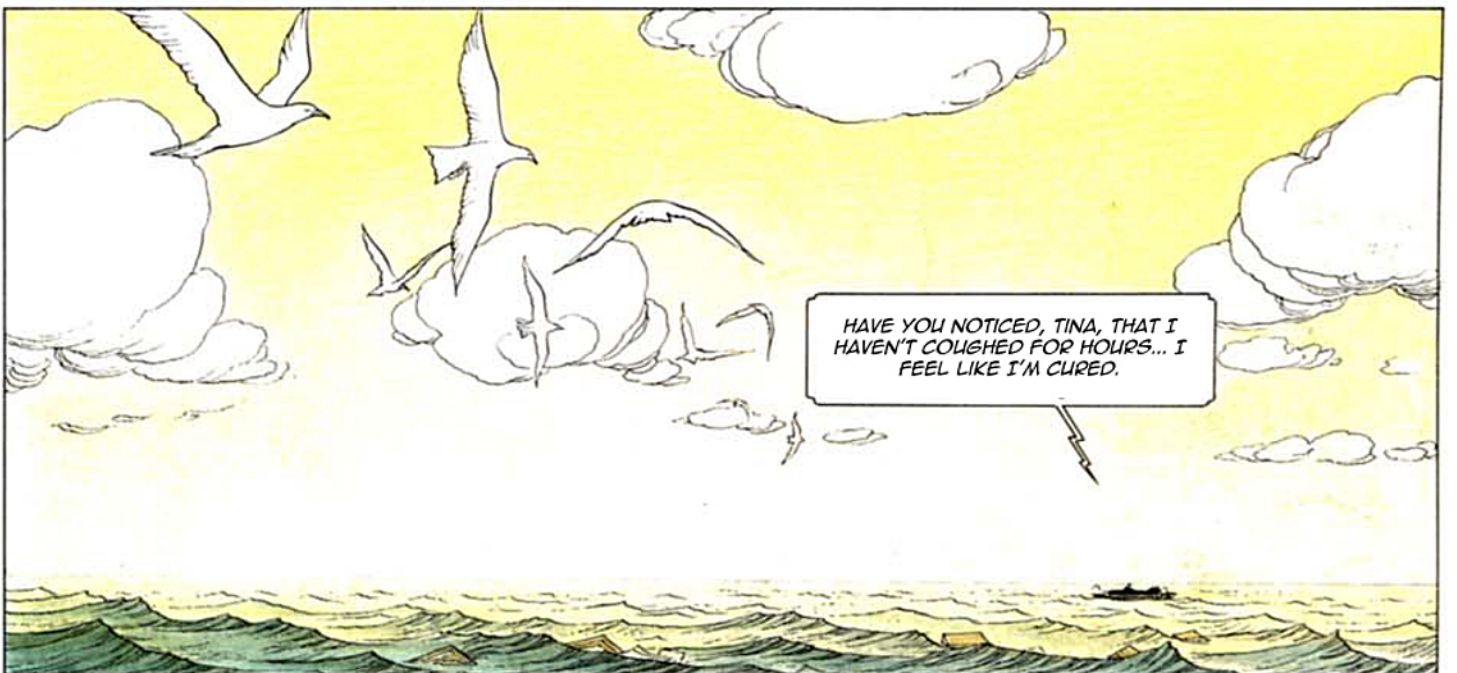
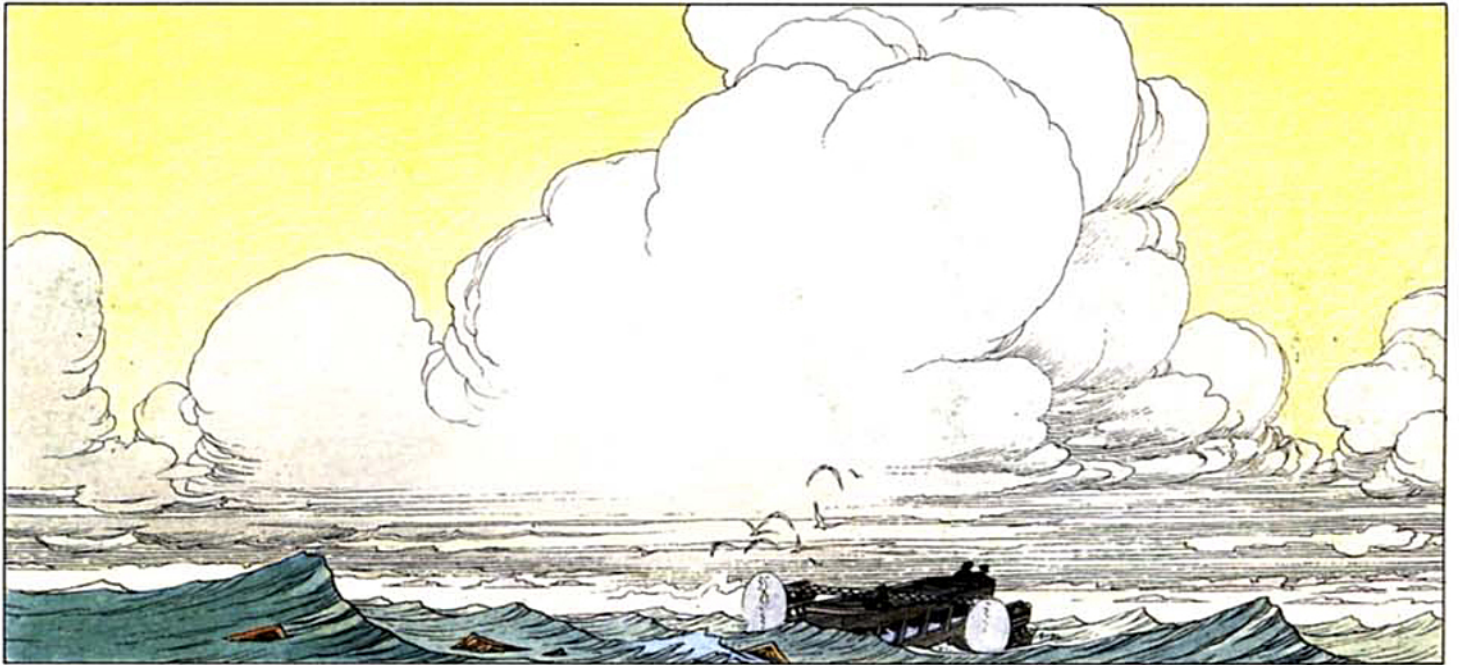


WE'VE ALL BEEN SICK...

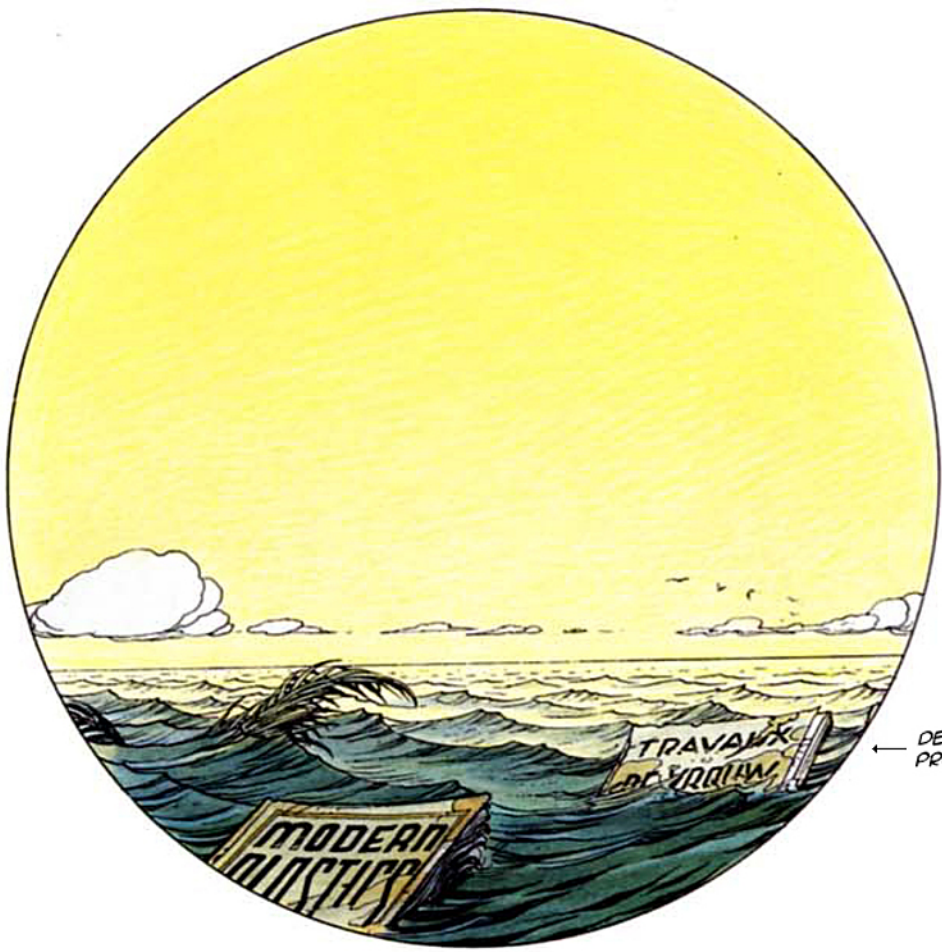
SICK FROM PROGRESS!



WELL, DEAR FRIENDS, I BELIEVE THIS RAFT IS AN INTERESTING IDEA. BY MAKING SOME IMPROVEMENTS IN IT, WE COULD MAKE THIS RAFT QUITE EFFICIENT.



HAVE YOU NOTICED, TINA, THAT I
HAVEN'T COUGHED FOR HOURS... I
FEEL LIKE I'M CURED.



← DE VROUW
PROJECTS

